SILVER JUBILEE

1914 ★ 1939

LADIES AUXILIARY

to the

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

of the

UNITED STATES

Gc
973.006
V64r
1985205

M.L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 00876 0867

THE AMERICAN FLAG

When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there!
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldric of the skies,
And striped its pure, celestial white
With streakings of the morning light;
Then, from his mansion in the sun,
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land!

Joseph Rodman Drake
1795 — 1820

RECORD
OF THE
FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

SILVER JUBILEE
Ladies Auxiliary
to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the
United States

1914—1939

Planned, designed, written and published under the supervision of the Silver Jubilee Executive Committee—Past National Presidents Bessie Hanken, Ada E. Harrison, and Winifred D. Toussaint, Chairman.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO., IND.

COPYRIGHT 1939
Ladies Auxiliary to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States.
(*First Edition*)

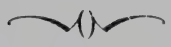
1985205

Often the significance of those objects closest to us is given the least thought. As many times as we have seen the insignia of the Ladies Auxiliary, how many of us have considered its component parts and what they each imply.

The basic motif is the Maltese Cross which takes us back to the days of the Crusades when it was bestowed as a decoration on Hospitalers and members of other knightly orders. The eagle in the center represents the government of the United States; the crossed guns, the United States Artillery; the crossed anchors, the United States Navy; the crossed rifles, the infantry; the crossed swords, the cavalry.

The motto is "IN FORTITUDE AND LOYALTY."

Source 3 FR-P. Title 16-1918



TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF THE FATHERS, HUSBANDS, SONS AND BROTHERS OF THE PRESENT, PAST AND FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, WHO FOUGHT AND DIED UNDER THE AMERICAN FLAG ON FOREIGN SOIL AND SEAS, THIS RECORD IS GRATEFULLY AND HUMBLY DEDICATED.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 5, 1938

Mrs. Winifred D. Toussaint,
Chairman,
Silver Jubilee Executive Committee,
Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars,
45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 3311,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Toussaint:

I am grateful for the opportunity to extend greetings to the members of the National Organization of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. The work of your organization has been enduring. Its underlying purposes have been to render a patriotic service to the nation and to contribute to the social needs of mankind.

Your members have served for a quarter of a century, and I know that you are happy in the thought that the opportunity to give helpful service is ever present. I congratulate you on this your Silver Jubilee Anniversary and extend best wishes for the future.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 5, 1938.

Mrs. Winifred D. Toussaint, Chairman,
Silver Jubilee Executive Committee,
Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars,
New York City.

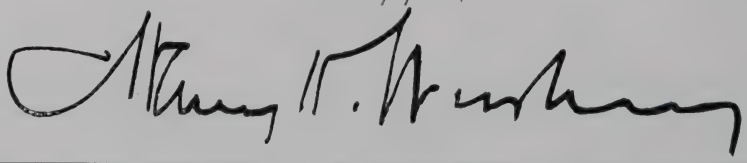
Dear Mrs. Toussaint:

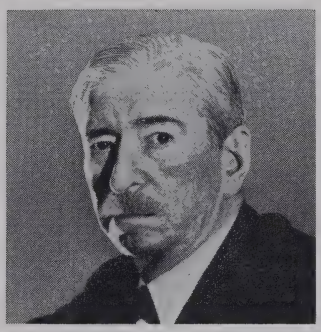
I am very happy to be able to felicitate the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars on their Silver Jubilee. When the Ladies Auxiliary was established a quarter of a century ago none would have predicted that within a few years we would be engaged in the greatest foreign war of all history. None could have visualized millions of American boys fighting on European battlefields and millions of mothers, wives and sisters working and praying for their success. None could have foreseen the opportunities for service so soon to be opened to the members of your auxiliary.

Your organization, grown so large in such a short time, does more than merely preserve and perpetuate the memories and associations of our past wars. It renders a signal service of inestimable value to the country in promoting the patriotic education of our youth and in furthering the peace and security of America.

I wish to congratulate the ladies of your organization on 25 years of devoted service and to express the hope that your auxiliary will continue for many years to devote itself to the well-being of the whole country as well as to the welfare of the veterans who are so near and dear to your membership.

Sincerely yours,





THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

July 5, 1938

Mrs. Winifred D. Toussaint,
Chairman,
Silver Jubilee Executive Committee,
Ladies Auxiliary to the
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States,
Suite 3311 — 45 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Toussaint:

I am pleased to greet the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on its twenty-fifth anniversary. The ladies of the Auxiliary have my warmest commendation in their splendid work of keeping alive the memory and the history of our country's defenders for the purpose of transmitting these glorious deeds to future generations. It is truly inspirational work and of incalculable patriotic value. May your organization continue to support the traditional American way and stand ever ready to take issue with groups at home and abroad that would undermine and prevent the adequate national defense so essential to the protection of our possessions and our Government.

I wish you success with the commemoration of your twenty-fifth anniversary.

Sincerely yours,

Claude A. Swanson

SONG OF JUBILATION

To hate of war and love of peace,
Our cause is dedicated;
Toward our fair land—America—
Our love has ne'er abated.

When overseas the storm clouds roll,
We fight for isolation;
When "isms" raise their ugly heads,
We crush them with elation.

Veterans of Foreign Wars;
"Sweet Land of Liberty"—
We now renew our pledge on this,
Our Silver Jubilee.

Sturdy and strong, marching along,
Singing the song of freemen.
Twenty-five years; rallying years,
Banish all fears of bondage.
We are the free, on land and on sea,
And ever shall be—"Forever."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

All through history, women have been auxiliaries, rendering invaluable aid to their men; on trek, in camp and in battle; in binding up wounds, physical, political and social. Marching side by side with their life-partners, they have shared danger and security, joy and sorrow, prosperity and adversity, luxury and misery; they have borne the children that have perpetuated the patriotism, fidelity and fortitude of the fathers, and the spirit of service with which they were imbued.

In the light of such a heritage, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States came into being September 14, 1914, an epochal year; and a date which establishes the fact that the idea of such an organization was not inspired by our participation in the World War.

In fact, as far back as 1903, a Ladies Auxiliary existed, and functioned in behalf of Post No. 1, at Columbus, Ohio, whose gavel and flag are now in possession of the National Auxiliary. An interesting coincidence, perhaps a good omen, in that the same city was host on the occasion of our Silver Anniversary Encampment, August 21st to 26th, 1938.

However, it was not until 1914 that a national association was formed and the Ladies Auxiliary, as it is now known, came into existence.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," says Brutus in "Julius Caesar." And, so with all history-making movements there seems to come a psychological time when everything is propitious for success. Again, Hamlet soliloquizes, "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will." That same divinity seems to dislike being hurried. We may strive to press matters, to force an issue, to launch a project before its time, only to have it stick on the ways,

So it seemed to be with the early attempts to organize a National Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The heart felt, and the mind knew that a ladies organization on a nationwide scale was a logical and needed adjunct to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, but some vital spark was missing and it was not until eleven years after the first independent Auxiliary had shown the way that fate decreed we should band together permanently, that we should strive, prosper and grow eventually into a coast to coast, border to border assembly of earnest, patriotic, unselfish and proudly-sacrificing women with an almost holy devotion to Americanism. An "ism" eclipsing, permanently blotting out all other "isms," whence they have or might come, or under whatever banner they might masquerade.

Yes, border to border and beyond have our 100,000 members and 2359 Auxiliaries spread; into every one of the forty-eight states and on to Alaska, Hawaii and the Canal Zone. Yet, even that does not tell the full story of our growth from the handful of courageous pioneers at Pittsburgh, Penn., who, in 1914, bravely shouldered the responsibility for launching our then frail bark on untried seas.

Step by step; administration by administration; Encampment by Encampment, over twenty-five long, yet happy and fruitful years, stone by stone the edifice of our service to our beloved country and to our beloved veterans has been builded with our hearts, our heads and our hands. Builded on the foundation, and around the cornerstone laid a quarter of a century ago, where now stands in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the shrine that marks the faith and fortitude of Sister Armstrong and her co-pioneers.

And of those early days our esteemed first National President, Margaret A. Armstrong, has given us a most interesting and intimate history.

At the request of National President Dora Raffensperger, Past National President Margaret Armstrong prepared the short

story of the early days of the National Auxiliary which follows and read it before the 19th National Encampment at Sacramento, California, 1932, and it was approved.

HISTORY OF EARLY ORGANIZATION

by

Margaret A. Armstrong

To the National President and Delegates of the 19th National Encampment:—

May I express first of all, Madam National President, my pleasure and appreciation of the honor you, our 12th National President, have bestowed upon me, the first National President, in asking me to give a short story of the early days of our organization?

The American Veterans of Foreign Service was formed in 1899, and as early as 1903 an Auxiliary was organized to Post No. 1 at Columbus, Ohio. This is the Auxiliary whose gavel and flag are now in your possession. This Auxiliary was followed by others at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Reading, Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Camden, New Jersey.

The Army of the Philippines, having also been organized in 1899, added Ladies Auxiliaries at Kansas City, Missouri, and Denver, Colorado.

Each of these organizations attempted to form a National Body of their Ladies Auxiliaries. In 1905 the American Veterans of Foreign Service legalized the formation of a National Auxiliary and made two separate attempts to establish it.

In 1906 the Army of the Philippines took similar action, but nothing definite developed in either case.

In 1913 these two bodies of Veterans, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the Army of the Philippines combined and took the name, now known around the world, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. However, the Auxiliary units continued to exist as independent bodies of their corresponding Posts.

Past National President

MARGARET A. ARMSTRONG

1914 — 1915 — 1917

The Veterans, realizing that the benefit of an Auxiliary body lay in its power to grow and progress, also, in the necessity of having common laws of government for all auxiliaries, in 1913, at the National Encampment in Philadelphia, Penn., called the ladies present together and made another attempt to form a National Organization, and again the attempt was not successful.

So the following year, 1914, preceding the National Encampment held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Commander-in-Chief Rice W. Means, issued a call to all Posts, having Auxiliary units, to have these units represented by delegates at Pittsburgh, Penn., and a National Organization of Ladies Auxiliaries to the Veterans of Foreign Wars would be formed.

Whether it was the psychological time for such a meeting, or whether we had more courage—when Commander-in-Chief Rice W. Means called the meeting of ladies to order September 14, 1914, delegates were present from the following Auxiliaries:

Stewart No. 1—Denver, Colorado
McKinley No. 4—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Carleton No. 5—St. Paul, Minnesota
Camden No. 6—Camden, New Jersey
Havana No. 15—Buffalo, New York
Capron No. 22—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Coghlan No. 36—Albany, New York

also, representatives from the following Posts:

Shipp No. 42—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Carney No. 46—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Phillips No. 28—Denver, Colorado
Malate No. 12—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Cushing No. 14—Newark, New Jersey
Connell No. 35—Providence, Rhode Island
Schley No. 36—Baltimore, Maryland
Eddy No. 66—East Liverpool, Ohio
Ward No. 19—McKeesport, Pennsylvania

FIRST AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

AUXILIARY TO CAMP LAWTON, NO. 1, COLUMBUS, OHIO, VETERANS OF FOREIGN SERVICE, THE PARENT POST OF THE PRESENT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES. FORMED IN 1903.

A temporary chairman, Mrs. Rice W. Means, and a temporary secretary, Mrs. M. A. Armstrong, were chosen.

(The ladies were obligated by the Commander-in-Chief and formed into a National body.)

Temporary By-Laws and a temporary Ritual were adopted to be used for a year and committees were named to prepare permanent ones.

Officers were elected and installed by the new Commander-in-Chief, Thomas N. Crago, of Pennsylvania, as follows:

National President—Margaret A. Armstrong of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Senior Vice-President—Sadie Kern of St. Paul, Minnesota.
Junior Vice-President—J. Kolber of Albany, New York.
Secretary—Mary F. Brice of Avalon, Pennsylvania.
Treasurer—Josephine Geis of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Executive Committee—(Pearl Hartung of Denver, Colorado. Alice Walker of Denver, Colorado.)

All delegates paid their personal per capita tax in order that a treasury might be started at once.

However, with an abiding faith in the future of our organization we went on—contracting debts and formed new Auxiliaries, and when we met in Detroit, Michigan, in 1915, thirteen Auxiliaries had been organized, all debts were paid and a small balance remained in the Treasury. The minutes of this Encampment in 1915 bear testimony to the earnest efforts all the National Officers put forth to firmly establish our organization.

When we met the next year in Chicago, Illinois, and I turned the chair over to my successor, Sadie Kern of St. Paul, Minnesota, I was filled with pride at the progress we had made, and at the approval of the Veterans of Foreign Wars given us at this Encampment.

When me met again in New York City in 1917, the Rain-

Past National President

SADIE A. KERN (Deceased)

1916

bow Division was about to go to France, and many of our own boys were again with the colors.

At this Encampment, I was again chosen to head our Organization, and I look back on that busy year with tender memories of the love, the sacrifice, the support, and the work that our members put into that one year, a record that I do not think has ever been equalled by any woman's organization. As the boys began to come back, our hospital work began to assume greater importance, an importance that has grown greater every year.

Among those who have worked from the very beginning of our organization and whose work has meant much to us are our three Past National Presidents, Sisters Lydia Riegel, Pearle E. Hartung, and Florence Stark.

In those distant days of our organization's infancy, if an Auxiliary was to be instituted or installed, we travelled miles at our own expense to do it.

So, for twenty years, we have labored side by side with our Veterans and as we look back down these long years, we forget the work, the worry, the expense and the sacrifice and thinking only of what our order is today, we are grateful to those who have followed our humble beginning and have made our Ladies Auxiliary the outstanding Woman's organization in our Nation.

So to you, Madam National President, and all the other Past National Presidents, I offer my appreciation and assure you I am happy to be with you today to share in the present glory of our National Organization of 1420 Auxiliaries.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET A. ARMSTRONG,
Past National President

* * * *

While it repeats in part Mrs. Armstrong's story of the early days of achievement through struggle and sacrifice, the actual step by step procedure of organizing the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars is of such historic moment that the original minutes of that first memorable meeting are worthy of perpetuation in detail here. For the record of those original minutes we are also indebted to Mrs. Armstrong, who presented them at the 20th National Encampment, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 30th, 1933. They read—

MINUTES OF MEETINGS TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

September 14, 1914

A meeting of the ladies, for the purpose of organizing a National Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of United States, was called to order by Commander-in-Chief, Rice W. Means. Mrs. Rice W. Means of Denver, Colorado, was chosen temporary Chairman of the proceedings, and Mrs. Geo. M. Armstrong of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—temporary Secretary.

It was regularly moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed to take care of Credentials. Motion carried.

The committee appointed was as follows:

Mrs. George Geis of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Fred Oglesby of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Jacob Kolber of Albany, New York

It was on motion approved to appoint a committee of three on Constitution and By-Laws. Those chosen were:

Mrs. Jos. Brice of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Harry S. Hall of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mrs. Charles Hoffman of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

It was also on motion approved to appoint a committee of three on Ritual. Those chosen were:

Mrs. John Jepson, Denver, Colorado
Mrs. Gus E. Hartung, Denver, Colorado
Mrs. William Ralston, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

It was then on motion decided to adjourn until 2 P.M., Tuesday, September 15, 1914.

M. A. Armstrong,
Temporary Secretary

Tuesday, September 15, 1914

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. R. W. Means of Denver, Colorado, at 2 P. M. The Committee on By-Laws submitted a copy for discussion. The Ritual Committee asked for an extension of time.

The meeting then adjourned until Wednesday at 9:30 A M.

M. A. Armstrong,
Temporary Secretary

Wednesday, September 16, 1914

The meeting was called to order by the Commander-in-Chief about 1:30.

A temporary Ritual and form of initiation was submitted and read by the Commander-in-Chief.

It was regularly moved and seconded that the report of the Ritual Committee be accepted and adopted by all the Auxiliaries now existing and that may hereafter exist. Carried.

It was also moved and seconded that Executive Committee be instructed to make copies of these and same be sent to the President of all Auxiliaries for their use.

The By-Laws Committee submitted a copy of temporary By-Laws which were read by the Commander-in-Chief.

It was moved and seconded that the By-Laws submitted be adopted as temporary By-Laws until next Encampment. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive Committee be directed to have copies of the temporary By-Laws made to be sent to each Auxiliary. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the President be authorized to appoint a Committee of three to draft new By-Laws to be sub mitted at the next Encampment. Motion carried.

It was also moved and seconded that the President appoint a Committee of three to investigate and prepare a new Ritual. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that we declare a recess until Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

M. A. ARMSTRONG, *Temporary Secretary*

Thursday, September 17, 1914

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock by the Chairman.

The Credential Committee reported as follows:

Delegates were present from:

Stewart Auxiliary No. 1—Denver, Colorado
McKinley Auxiliary No. 4—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Carleton Auxiliary No. 5—St. Paul, Minnesota
Coghlan Auxiliary No. 36—Albany, New York
Havana Auxiliary No. 15—Buffalo, New York
De Hart Auxiliary No. 35—Camden, New Jersey

Representatives were also present from:

Eddy Post No. 55—E. Liverpool, Ohio
Carney Post No. 46—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Phillips Post No. 28—Denver, Colorado

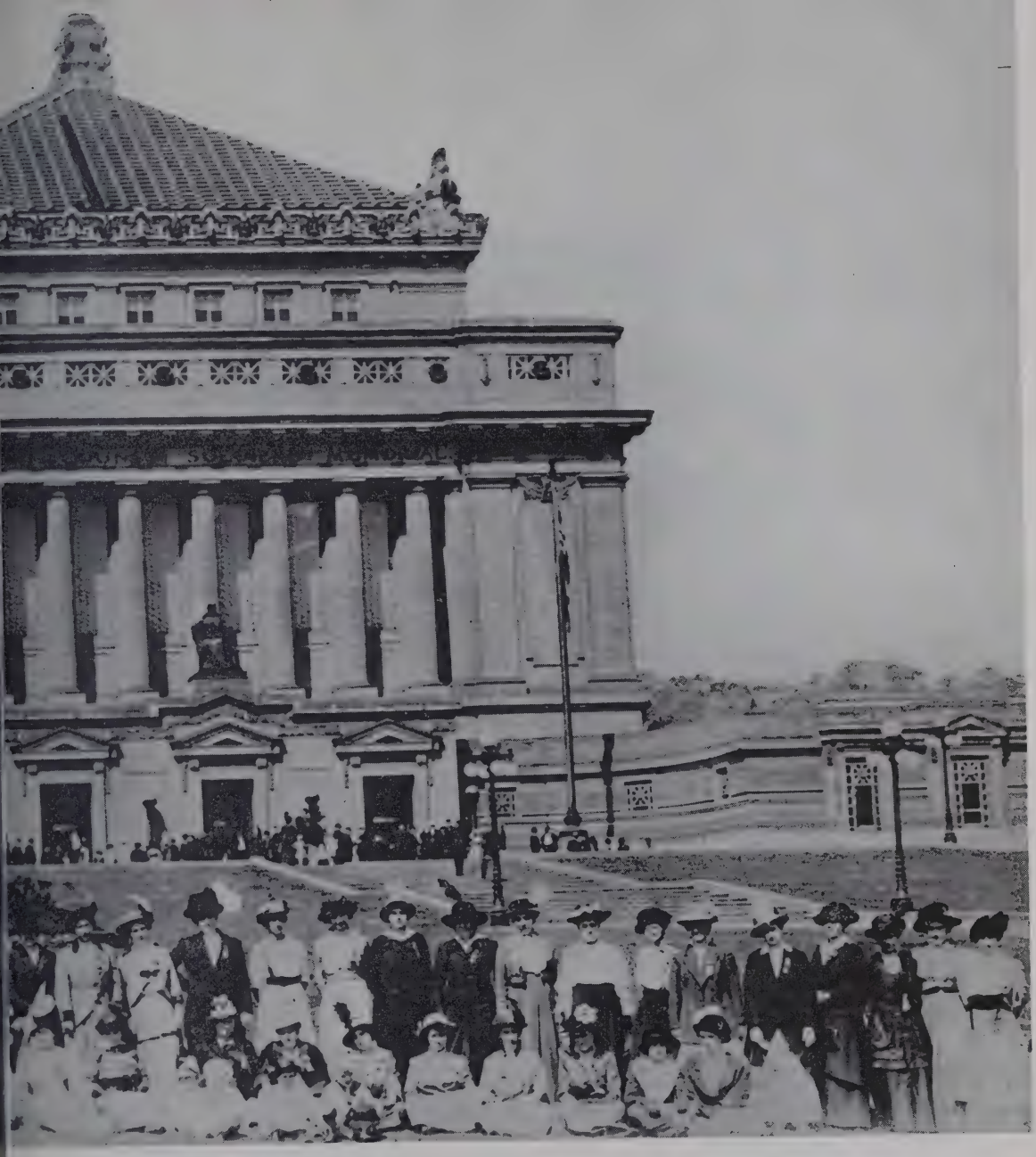
OUR FIRST

LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE

PITTSBURGH

SEPTEMBER

PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS DELEGATES FROM STEWART AUXILIARY NO. 1., DENVER, COLORADO—McKINLEY AUXILIARY NO. 4, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA—CARLETON AUXILIARY NO. 5, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—COGHLAN AUXILIARY NO. 36, ALBANY, NEW YORK—HAVANA AUXILIARY NO. 15, BUFFALO, NEW YORK—DE HART AUXILIARY NO. 35, CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY. EDDY POST NO. 55—E. LIVERPOOL, OHIO; CARNEY POST NO. 46—PITTSBURGH, PENNSYVANIA; PHILLIPS POST NO. 28—DENVER, COLORADO; CON-



ENCAMPMENT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
PENNSYLVANIA

914

NELL POST NO. 45—PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND; SCHLEY POST NO. 65—BALTIMORE, MARYLAND; MALATE POST NO. 12—PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA; SHIP POST—PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA; CUSHING POST NO. 4—NEWARK, NEW JERSEY; McKEESPORT POST NO. 19—McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA; WHEELER POST NO. 62—JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY; CANAL ZONE POST—CANAL ZONE, PANAMA.

Connell Post No. 45—Providence, Rhode Island
Schley Post No. 65—Baltimore, Maryland
Malate Post No. 12—Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Ship Post—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Cushing Post No. 14—Newark, New Jersey
McKeesport Post No. 19—McKeesport, Pennsylvania
Wheeler Post No. 62— Jersey City, New Jersey
Canal Zone Post—Canal Zone, Panama

In order to give all who had come to the organization an equal interest, votes were decided as follows:

Carleton Auxiliary No. 5 ..... 3 votes
McKinley Auxiliary No. 4 ..... 6 votes
Coghlan Auxiliary No. 36 ..... 3 votes
Stewart Auxiliary No. 1 ..... 3 votes
De Hart Auxiliary No. 35 ..... 2 votes
McKeesport Auxiliary No. 19 ..... 2 votes

The others who were not organized were given one (1) vote each:

Eddy No. 66 ..... 1 vote
Phillips No. 28 ..... 1 vote
Schley No. 36 ..... 1 vote
Carney No. 46 ..... 1 vote
Malate No. 12 ..... 1 vote
Ship ..... 1 vote
Cushing No. 14 ..... 1 vote
Canal Zone ..... 1 vote
Jersey City ..... 1 vote
Connell No. 35 ..... 1 vote

Nomination for National Officers was declared in order by the Commander-in-Chief.

Nominations were as follows:

National President—Mrs. George A. Armstrong of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Past National President

LYDIA RIEGEL

1918 — 1919

Moved and seconded that nomination for President be closed. It was then moved and seconded that Mrs. Armstrong be declared unanimous choice of the meeting. Carried.

It was then moved and seconded that the President appoint the National Secretary—carried.

Mrs. J. F. Brice of Avalon, Pennsylvania, was named as National Secretary.

Nominations for Executive Committee were as follows:

Mrs. Wm. Walker of Denver, Colorado

Mrs. Gus Hartung of Denver, Colorado

(were the unanimous choice.)

Nominations for Senior Vice-President:

Mrs. W. F. Kern—Carleton Auxiliary—St. Paul, Minn.

Junior Vice-President:

Mrs. Jacob Kolber of Albany, New York

Treasurer:

Mrs. George Geis of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

These ladies were declared unanimously elected as no other nominations were made.

It was moved and seconded that the Executive Committee have full power to adopt a Seal, forms for Charters and application, and all other necessary blanks. Carried.

It was moved and seconded that each lady present be requested to pay her own per capita tax at once to put money into the National Treasury with which to start work.

The tax decided on was fifteen (15) cents per member.

After various suggestions the meeting closed.

The officers were installed into office at a joint meeting by the newly elected Commander-in-Chief, Thomas Crago of Penn.

M. A. Armstrong,

Temporary Secretary

Read and approved as read

With one candle on our birthday cake, August 16th-19th, 1915, found us encamping at Detroit, Michigan, with a full quota of National Officers present.

Thirteen Auxiliaries were reported in good standing.

And, as "great oaks from little acorns grow," those thirteen Auxiliaries (the Acorn) have expanded into 2,359 Auxiliaries (the Oak) in the comparatively short space of twenty-five years.

What a wealth of significance lies in that contrast; what a tribute to the spirit that has animated the Ladies Auxiliary over a quarter of a century; to the wisdom and integrity with which the entire structure has been set up and managed. How it has kept pace with the expanding aims and the new avenues for service to Veterans, to youth and to our beloved land.

Chicago, Illinois, was host to our Auxiliary for the Third Annual Encampment, (1916.) That occasion found Margaret A. Armstrong still in the chair, carrying on the magnificent pioneer work begun two years before.

Unfortunately, the records of Mrs. Armstrong's second administration are not available for reference, beyond the list of new officers elected for the ensuing year, when Mrs. Sadie Kern was elected president. With her subordinates, she represents the first change in officers since the founding of the organization.

The Fourth Annual Encampment found Mrs. Armstrong returned to the chair, with nine new Auxiliaries organized during the preceding year, under Mrs. Kern's administration, bringing the total to twenty-one Auxiliaries, an augury of the future, so splendidly fulfilled in the years that followed.

That was our first Encampment as guests of the metropolis of the western world, and we can imagine it was a thriller for the delegates to be the first representatives of the Auxiliary to be welcomed by Father Knickerbocker and his millions of children in "little old New York," on the occasion of the 1917 rally.

Between our fourth and our fifth Encampments our country

had taken one of the most momentous steps in her history. She had cast her lot with the Allies in the World War, early in 1917, opening up tremendously our opportunities for service to Veteran and nation, tasks of devotion still being vigorously performed and constantly broadened as our vision dictates and our means permit.

In that fateful year of 1918, Minneapolis was the scene of the Fifth Annual Encampment, an occasion which saw an expansion of eligibility. The Ida McKinley Auxiliary to William McKinley Post of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, presented a resolution that the Auxiliary eligibility clause be liberalized to include sisters, mothers and daughters of men engaged in the World War, also army nurses who had seen foreign service.

At the same Encampment, the government-approved pledge to the flag was adopted.

An inspiring demonstration of initiatory work was given by the members of the local Auxiliary under the leadership of Sister Louise Hyde, and the records of the Encampment testify to the deep impression made on the delegates and their appreciation of the beautiful ceremony.

Under the then closing administration, national stationery, transfer cards, treasurer's receipt cards, membership cards, new application cards and semi-annual report cards had been put into use, and the new Auxiliary pin inscribed "Ladies Auxiliary V.F.W.," was adopted to take the place of the old pin inscribed "Fortitude and Loyalty." The new pin met with great popular acclaim.

All together, the Minneapolis Encampment was a memorable milestone on the road to greater accomplishment, and it saw the installation into office of Mrs. Lydia Riegel, president for 1918-1919.

For our Sixth Annual Encampment, 1919, we again moved east, this time to Rhode Island, where, at Providence, the initial steps were taken toward the fund for the national flag and banner. Here

Past National President

PEARLE W. HARTUNG

1920

first collections were made and delegates pledged their Auxiliary donations.

The closing year had put an extra strain on our treasury due to our participation in World War work, yet our still struggling organization showed a comfortable balance. We were keeping our heads above water and bravely carrying on.

Sister Riegel's commendable first administration resulted in her re-election for the year 1919-1920, when we moved on to the nation's capital for our Seventh Annual Encampment.

The national flag and banner had been purchased at a cost of $168. Since $275 had been collected for the fund, it was decided to use the balance, to which was added a collection taken at the Encampment, to buy treats for the service men at Walter Reid and St. Elizabeth's Hospitals in Washington.

In addition to the National Flag and Banner, presented by the combined Auxiliaries, the following donations were also made at the Washington Encampment:

Color Bearer's Flag—Auxiliaries of Pittsburgh, Pa.
Conductress Flag—Dehart Auxiliary, Camden, N. J.
Bible and Altar Cloth—Mrs. Cutler, Chicago, Ill.
Gavel—Mrs. Bordreau, Pawtucket, R. I.
Stands—Corporal Johnson Auxiliary, Detroit, Mich.

While the Fifth Annual Encampment had shown six new Auxiliaries gained in the preceding year, and the Sixth Encampment had recorded twelve new Auxiliaries, the Seventh Encampment reported the magnificent increase of seventy-eight new Auxiliaries in the preceding twelve months, bringing the total at that time to one hundred and twenty-three Auxiliaries.

And the treasury was beginning to show a healthy growth, reaching up into four figures in receipts, disbursements and balance, and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was attaining national importance.

At the Washington rally, Comrade Bruford demonstrated

the military salute, which was then officially adopted by the Auxiliary in its ritual work.

Mrs. Pearle Hartung, of Denver, Colorado, succeeded Mrs. Riegel as President, duly presiding at the Eighth Annual Encampment at Detroit, Michigan, 1921.

At the Eighth Encampment the subject of uniforms came up. The style suggested was one similar to those worn by army nurses; white dresses, white hose and shoes, a cape with a different color lining than worn by the army nurses, and some form of headdress. It was suggested by the Commander-in-Chief that the latter resemble the blue Tam-O-Shanter similar to those of the famous "Blue Devils" of France.

However, no decision was reached and the subject was carried over for a future Encampment.

Mrs. Lena Panzner was honored with the presidency for the year of 1921-22, and it was decided to hold the Ninth Annual Encampment at Seattle, Washington, in 1922.

During Mrs. Panzner's administration our National Auxiliary made its first contribution of any kind, $50.00, which was presented to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States toward their Americanization work.

It was also during the same administration that the Past Presidents' pin was designed, and the Past National Presidents' pin, with diamond, adopted.

Progress had been highly gratifying, especially with reference to the institution of new Auxiliaries. The preceding year had established a new record, with one hundred and thirty additional Auxiliaries coming into the fold, the largest gain to date in the history of our national body.

That Encampment was notable also for recognition extended our Gold Stripe Organization. At the opening of the Encampment, an exquisite French flag was presented to the National Auxiliary by Captain Elton, National Adjutant of the Veterans

of Foreign Wars of the United States, who had just returned from France. The presentation was made in behalf of the women of France, as a token of appreciation for what our boys had accomplished "over there." A dramatic touch was the singing of the French National Anthem by a Veterans of Foreign Wars comrade while the presentation was being made.

That beautiful tribute from our sister republic now reposes at National Auxiliary Headquarters.

It is interesting to note that the treasurer reported a cash balance in hand of $7,758.08, a tangible sign that the national organization had really grown up, when we could show a comfortable nest egg well into four figures, and reaching out toward five.

DELEGATES LEAVING MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, ON SPECIAL TRAIN FOR NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 1922

1985205

Past National President

LENA PANZNER

1921

With the election of officers, Sister Panzner stepped down from the chair with a successful administration behind her, and Kate (Mother) Hutcheson stepped up and became our national president for 1922-23.

For our Tenth Annual Encampment, we dipped below the Mason-Dixon Line for a taste of Southern hospitality. Norfolk, Virginia, in 1923 was the host city for the 1923 gathering, and the tenth anniversary Encampment registered the largest attendance in the annals of our national body.

We had grown to 400 active Auxiliaries, eighty-five being added in President Kate (Mother) Hutcheson's administration. And the National Officers' Roster also was increased by establishing the new offices of Musician, National Flag Bearer and Banner Bearer.

Our expansion well up into the hundreds of Auxiliaries necessitated closer and more frequent contact with local bodies. For that purpose, two pages of "Foreign Service" magazine were opened to National Ladies Auxiliary activities.

It was at the Norfolk Encampment that ritualistic floor work became standardized. On the discovery that many Auxiliaries were following different procedures, a definite plan was laid out and copies of the plan distributed to all Auxiliaries for their guidance.

A much appreciated gesture on the part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in keeping with the traditions of Southern gallantry, was a serenade by the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Drum and Bugle Corps before the ladies while in session.

President Kate Hutcheson was chosen to again guide the destinies of the Auxiliary in the year 1923-24 and the entire staff of new officers was decorated with the officers jewels presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars the preceding year.

President Hutcheson closed her second administration with the Eleventh Annual Encampment on the shores of New Jersey, at

Atlantic City in 1924. Her tender and loyal devotion to her duties, and beyond, had earned her the deep affection of all. Thus she became endeared to us as "Mother" Hutcheson.

Step by step the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was growing in stature, organization and service. At the Eleventh Annual Encampment, State Departments were established, to begin operation in the twelfth year, in order to lighten the burdens of the National Secretary and National Treasurer, and to aid in increasing the number of Auxiliaries and in stimulating membership.

Grave markers were added to the national list of supplies, to be supplied to local Auxiliaries at retail cost.

As "Mother" Hutcheson relinquished her duties, Mrs. Effie King stepped into the office of president for the ensuing year, with officers and members looking forward to the Twelfth Annual Encampment for which we again dipped south, and west, to Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1925.

Thirteen state departments had been set up and were functioning smoothly, contributing much to the relief at headquarters. And another office was created, that of National Judge Advocate, elective.

About this time the Ladies Auxiliary began to take serious interest in the National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Our Twelfth Annual Encampment donated $451.00 cash, in addition to twelve hundred pieces of bed and table linen, quilts, blankets and wearing apparel.

Tulsa was honored by being the first Encampment city to be presented with a large silk flag, an idea of National President Effie King, funds for carrying out the idea being obtained by having each Auxiliary pledge one dollar per year toward the expense entailed.

Sister Effie King again was named to carry on the direction of our National Auxiliary during the ensuing year, and for our

1926 National Encampment we accepted the hospitality of the mighty state of Texas, and the charming city of El Paso.

This Encampment in the Lone Star State saw sixty-nine Auxiliaries and four State Departments instituted, continuing the healthy growth our national body had shown from early days.

During her second administration, National President Effie King made an extensive tour of Departments, from New York as far south as Florida and west as far as Arizona. Her report of conditions was a highlight of the Encampment and a note of encouragement and inspiration to those assembled for the Thirteenth Annual Encampment.

At this Encampment the Past Department President's Pin was reported adopted at the National Council of Administration meeting which had been held at New York, May 13th. It was decided that the jewel should be a ruby, whereas the jewel in the Past National President's Pin is a diamond. Department colors were also adopted, maroon being chosen.

That year was closed when National President Effie King handed over the gavel to her newly elected successor, Margaret Oldridge, who then assumed the responsibilities so ably borne by her predecessor.

Back east again, to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1927, and from the largest state to the smallest, Texas to Rhode Island, we moved for our Fourteenth Annual Encampment.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, benefited from donations by individual Auxiliaries during the preceding year to the extent of $1,287.90. New Jersey led in giving the largest amount from any one state. Many states could not afford to contribute to the general national fund, because they were devoting their funds to the building of their respective state cottages.

The institution of three new Departments during National President Margaret Oldridge's administration brought the total up

Past National President

KATE M. (Mother) HUTCHESON (Deceased)

1922 — 1923

to twenty. Fifty-eight new Auxiliaries also joined the national body in 1926.

National President Florence Stark was elevated to that post, taking the chair relinquished by Margaret Oldridge. Sister Stark and her sister officers were installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Theodore Stitt.

In 1927 we had gone over the five hundred mark in the number of Auxiliaries in the national body, and the Fifteenth Annual Encampment was opened at Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1928 with a total membership of five hundred seventy-five Auxiliaries and twenty-four Departments. It was also the largest Encampment in the history of the National Auxiliary to date, resulting in a thrilling demonstration with so many Auxiliaries participating in the parade.

More intensified interest in the Veterans National Home was urged by the National President. Lena Panzner, Chairman of the National Home Committee, reported that she had on hand $2,000, and that $1,300 which had already been given to the Home was in the bank and drawing interest.

Dr. Candler of the National Home, appeared before the assembled delegates and stressed the need for a hospital, suggesting that a $10,000 building would suffice for the time being.

In response to Dr. Candler's appeal, the Encampment responded with enthusiasm, and unanimously voted that monies already collected, and to be collected for the National Home, immediately be devoted to the construction of the hospital, which now stands at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and which has proved such a profitable investment from the humanitarian standpoint.

Our part in having "The Star Spangled Banner" officially declared the National Anthem followed an appeal by Captain Walter I. Joyce, Americanization Chairman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the circularization of petitions among members assembled. The petitions were taken back to the respective Auxil-

iaries by the delegates, and the resulting roll of signatures were cast into the balance and contributed materially to the success of the measure, the Congress subsequently passing the bill which now stands on the statute books.

At the close of business, Bessie Hanken's first administration was inaugurated to carry on the high traditions of service so religiously maintained from that first brave gathering at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, fourteen fruitful years before.

For our Sixteenth Annual Encampment the spirit of Minnehaha called us to the capital of the Gopher State, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1929.

Could the beauteous Indian maiden of song and story have gazed on her white sisters gathered there she would have shared the thrills that delegates to a Ladies Auxiliary Annual Encampment never fail to experience.

The closing year 1927-28 was made notable by the extent of National President Bessie Hanken's visits to Departments and local Auxiliaries, the greatest aggregate of any national president since our organization. Her activity, in a large measure, was responsible for the enthusiasm and inspiration of the St. Paul Encampment.

In tribute to the National President's work and devotion, the mayor of her home town, Revere, Massachusetts, traveled 1,900 miles to St. Paul, Minnesota, to do her honor.

The Sixteenth Annual Encampment voted $500 to the Encampment Hospital Committee for the Veterans at Fort Snelling, and, as a remembrance of the St. Paul, Minnesota, conclave, a corresponding portfolio, bearing the emblem of our national body, was given to each of the five hundred there. In addition, several states pledged a supply of paper, pens and pencils to last a year.

Continuing the splendid humanitarian work, National Home Fund Chairman, Frances Van Houten, reported $12,000 raised from local Auxiliaries and through Departments. And that

splendid showing was due in no small measure to the dime banks, each with a capacity of $5, with which the Auxiliaries were supplied. All monies so received were put into the Auxiliary Home Fund to be devoted to the building of the hospital at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and it was reported that Mr. Chris Paschen, Building Commissioner of Chicago, Illinois, had offered to furnish sweaters for future children.

In the past year the present official uniform had been adopted, and since we now had our uniforms, Walter I. Joyce, National Patriotic Instructor for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, demonstrated the Auxiliary salute; when in uniform and the colors are passing, use head salute; hands at sides when not in uniform.

For the first time, the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense recognized our organization by making National President Bessie Hanken a member of the advisory board. Also for the first time, invitations were received for the participation of thirty members in the inaugural parade of the President of the United States. On that occasion the Ladies Auxiliary was ably represented by National Senior Vice-President Ada E. Harrison.

In the same year of 1928 our National Legislative Committee was set up in order to establish closer working relations with legislation bearing on the interests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The wisdom of this move is evidenced by the legislation favorable to our veterans passed in the ensuing years.

Two Departments and ninety-six Auxiliaries joined the ranks in 1928, the greatest gain in Auxiliaries since 1921-22.

In a beautiful ceremony, at the close of the joint open session of the Encampment, the Patriotic Instructor and her committee presented flags to the Governor of Minnesota, the Mayor of St. Paul, and the St. Paul Association.

In recognition of the achievements of her first year, Bessie Hanken was re-elected National President for 1929-1930.

In the military spirit of another age, "Maryland, My Maryland" was brought to mind by the convening in Baltimore of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, again with Sister Hanken presiding.

A golden milestone in the history of our now truly National Organization, passed in the year of 1930, was the completion of the Auxiliary Hospital at the National Home, so constructed that an addition could be built on whenever that might become necessary.

Official presentation to our Veterans organization was made in an impressive ceremony at the Baltimore Encampment. Led by the National President, all members in session marched in a body to the session hall of the Veterans, where Bessie Hanken presented to Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah Duff a golden key, emblematic of the key to the hospital.

On the records of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment is the adoption of the official Auxiliary Cape, so familiar today in its effective army nurse style.

All floor officers were given the privilege of voting at the Department Encampments, including Patriotic Instructor, Historian, Musician and four Color Bearers. And new Color Bearer Flags, a new Banner and a new silk Patriotic Instructor's Flag was ordered to be purchased in time for the Eighteenth Encampment. Insignia thus replaced were presented to the National Home.

That the efforts of our national officers to enlist a more active interest in the National Home, and in the Auxiliary Hospital in particular, were bearing fruit was beautifully demonstrated in the success of the linen shower conducted by Sister Florence Stark, Past National President and Chairman of the Linen Shower Committee.

Donations came in from all points of the compass and the response was so great that Sister Stark's room looked like a giant linen press so completely was it filled with the most welcome con-

tributions, enough to last three or four years. What a gratification it is to be a member of an organization that rises like that to an opportunity to be of service in a worthy cause and to a humanitarian appeal.

There is no end to service when it springs from the heart. And no service springs more truly from the heart than that of the Ladies Auxiliary to their veteran husbands, fathers, sons and brothers.

Always seeking new ways to be of help, on the recommendation of Past National President Bessie Hanken, two Veterans of Foreign Wars National Auxiliary Hospital Days were established in 1929—Mother's Day and Armistice Day. And in the same year the National Order was put on a budget system, a wise move that proved highly successful.

Service to the living and homage to the dead is the soul of our existence as a patriotic American organization. And few, if any, more poignant opportunities have we had to render homage to the heroic dead than participation in the ceremonies at Hoboken, New Jersey, upon the return of the "Polar Bear" heroes. A beautiful ceremony was conducted by Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah Duff, and delegations met the funeral train at every stop on its way to Michigan for final interment for those who had died in Siberia and Russia.

Not only our service, but our prestige and influence were broadening as the years went by. Commander-in-Chief Duff had been honored by the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense in 1930 by being invited to address their assembly, most ably and emphatically acquitting himself. And, through the perseverance of our National President, finally we were recognized by that influential body. That opening made it possible for the Ladies Auxiliary to one day have the chairmanship of the conference bestowed upon it.

The same year was marked by the departure of the first

Past National President

EFFIE KING

1924 — 1925

contingent of Gold Star Mothers on their pilgrimage to the hallowed graves of their sons in France.

National Senior Vice-President Ada E. Harrison was appointed chairman to greet all Gold Star Mothers of our organization at New York and present each with a large poppy tied with victory ribbon, gifts from our National Organization. Amid pathos, pride and patriotism the good ship "America" drew away from her pier at Hoboken, New Jersey, with many of our Ladies Auxiliaries represented. National President Bessie Hanken was prominent in the party that accompanied Mayor Walker of New York aboard the "America," and also the city committee boat "Macon," which escorted the mothers down the harbor.

Ada E. Harrison was elected and duly installed as National President for the coming year, and Past President Hanken turned the gavel over with a gain in membership of five thousand; one hundred and twenty-three new Auxiliaries organized; a splendid hospital building erected at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home at a cost of $35,000; a $7,000 cash balance and $2,200 in bonds in the treasury.

The 1930 conclave closed on an impressive note, when Past Commander-in-Chief Carver, after installing each officer, had each member give a personal pledge to the new National President.

Between the Seventeenth and Eighteenth National Encampments, we suffered the loss of the first Past National President to pass on to greater glory, Kate (Mother) Hutcheson. Under the direction of Past National President Effie King, assisted by all surviving Past National Presidents, a heart-filling service was conducted for one of the kindliest and most devoted leaders with whom it was our good fortune to have been blessed.

At the same time memorial services were conducted for one hundred and seventy-one deceased members, the impressive occasion marking the opening of the sessions of our Eighteenth Annual Encampment at Kansas City, Missouri.

UPPER LEFT—NATIONAL TREASURER JOSEPHINE GEIS, NATIONAL PRESIDENT MARGARET A. ARMSTRONG, NATIONAL SECRETARY ADA R. HALL; DETROIT, MICHIGAN, 1915 — *CENTER*—KATE (Mother) HUTCHESON, EL PASO, TEXAS, 1926—*UPPER RIGHT*—MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, 1918—*LOWER LEFT*—FIRST NATIONAL DEPUTY STELLA HOFFMAN, FIRST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN ODESSA GRAHAM, FIRST NATIONAL CONDUCTER, MAY STANFORD—*LOWER RIGHT*—NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, AUGUST, 1915.

From sad to glad, we turn to a record gain in the number of new Auxiliaries, one hundred ninety-two having been formed during the preceding twelve months. Four Departments also were added, bringing the total to thirty-one.

With constant growth comes constant change, improvement follows improvement; refinement follows refinement. In the more recent years of the National Auxiliary our rapid expansion naturally has necessitated an increased number of changes from past procedure.

In that respect, the Kansas City Encampment saw many

resolutions presented, out of which a number were approved, the most important of which concerned a change in voting, and which ruled, "That in the future the voting at the National Encampments of the Ladies Auxiliary shall be by states instead of by Auxiliaries, as has been the custom in the past."

Dora Raffensperger's term of office began with the installation of officers by Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Wolman at the close of the Kansas City session, and everyone looked forward to another year of constantly expanding service, and another inspiring reunion, this time in hospitable sunny California, with the capital city of Sacramento as host for 1932.

At last we have our own "home." National Auxiliary Headquarters had been established at Kansas City prior to the Sacramento Encampment, and no longer need national officers maintain records in their several homes. The centralization thus effected made the operation of our ever-growing national organization simpler, speedier and smoother, to say nothing of relieving our officers of the necessity for making offices out of their homes.

With a few corrections and the settling of the county council controversy, the by-laws submitted to the Eighteenth Annual Encampment at Kansas City the preceding year were accepted. Also, the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Council of Administration gave the Ladies National Encampment permission to make their own amendments to their by-laws to govern the National Council of Administration of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Ever expanding, and more closely paralleling the organization setup of the veterans, at the Sacramento Encampment it was voted to redistrict the states.

With the work of the National Home constantly growing in extent, and our part increasing in importance and responsibility, Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Woodside, President of the Home, was invited to present a complete report at Sacramento, the first to be submitted either to the Veterans or to the Ladies Auxil-

Past National President

MARGARET J. OLDRIDGE

1926

iary. And that was the first time either organization had had an opportunity to adequately comprehend and appreciate the accomplishments of the home in behalf of the orphans and widows.

Ever present in our thoughts, the National Home continued to receive the financial, as well as the moral, support of our National Auxiliary. While, in the preceding year, direct donations had not been on a par with other years, many states were building their own cottages, and it was hoped that, before many years had rolled around, every state would be represented by a cottage.

Our Auxiliary Wreath, so familiar to us all now as a marker on the graves of deceased members, was adopted at the Eighteenth Annual Encampment. Sister Bessie Hanken, designer of the wreath, suggested that it be called the Mother Hutcheson Wreath, in tribute to the first of our National Presidents to die.

Revision of constitution and by-laws occupied considerable of the thought and time of the Kansas City Encampment. The changes proposed and voted on were further indication of the virility of our National Organization and the ambition of officers and members to have a constantly improving and as efficiently operating body as humanly possible.

Among the many interesting sidelights in Comrade Woodside's report was the fact that $1.25 a day was provided for general every day attention to, and clothing, for each child. Comrade Woodside also emphasized the preference for cash donations over gifts, the reason being that the home itself could best tell what supplies were most needed, and just how they should be distributed to the best advantage.

Comrade Woodside reminded the assembled delegates that any member or auxiliary donating one hundred dollars, or more, was entitled to an Auxiliary Endowment Certificate from the Board of Trustees of the National Home. He also made it clear that such donations were not to be confused with Life Memberships, though the two funds were combined in the fiscal set-up.

Comrade Charles F. Adams, Director of the National Home, thrilled the ladies present with the announcement that, just prior to the Sacramento Encampment, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Department of Pennsylvania had invested a thousand dollars in a complete dental equipment, which they presented to the Home. And it required little imagination on the part of the delegates to picture the great blessing of such a gift.

With our beautiful installation ceremony conducted by Commander-in-Chief Darold De Coe, Consuelo Peart De Coe took the chair to guide the destinies of the Ladies Auxiliaries until we should move on to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for our Twentieth Annual Encampment in 1933.

The soundness of our national organization, and the love, devotion and loyalty of our members were put severely to the test in 1932 and 1933. Through the depths of the depression, those entrusted with the destinies of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, proved their mettle. They never wavered in their tasks despite the pressure of adverse conditions.

National President De Coe had set a goal of 300 as the number of Auxiliaries we should gain in 1932-33. The goal was not reached, yet 268 new Auxiliaries joined our ranks, surely a splendid showing, everything considered, and a tribute to the courage, zeal and plain hard work on the part of thousands of our loyal members.

While it is inevitable that we must suffer losses as well as be blesed with gains, 1932-33 showed a net increase of 7,254 members, approximately 15% of our total in spite of the loss of 30 Auxiliaries for the year. And the total for the term ending September 30, 1933, reached 56,178 members as of record and in good standing.

The Department of New York won the prize for the largest gain in new Auxiliaries, having added 25 to the 1,425 constituting our national organization at that time. And three new Departments

were instituted; North Carolina, Idaho and the District of Columbia, also 30 County Councils in the first year that County Councils were a branch of our national body.

At the Sacramento National Encampment it was ordered that a booklet of instructions be compiled by a committee appointed by the National President. Hours of arduous toil on the part of the committee members, with corrections and additions made at the Milwaukee Encampment, produced the booklet which local Auxiliaries have been using since, an invaluable aid in the conduct of their respective bodies.

February 11th, we went "on the air," joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their program "Hello America" on the coast to coast network of the National Broadcasting Company. National President De Coe most ably acquitted herself in an inspiring address.

With the adjournment of the Milwaukee Encampment, National President Consuelo Peart De Coe passed the gavel over to Julia L. Pitcock, who, with her subordinate officers, was installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Eugene P. Carver, to conduct the affairs of our national organization for the ensuing year and to preside at the Twenty-First Annual Encampment at Louisville, Kentucky, 1934.

In our Silver Jubilee (25th Anniversary year) we look back on the twentieth year as one of outstanding growth and achievement. We reached that milestone an organization of extensive service and broad influence, with a record of accomplishment that might well be the envy of any national body.

Steadily striding forward, we seemed to have made an extra spurt as we completed the second decade of our existence. Three hundred and twenty-eight new Auxiliaries were enrolled and we had reached out into new fields, the Canal Zone and the state of Alabama. A net gain of 4,574 members brought our total to 60,752 members in 1707 Auxiliaries, a living monument to the

Past National President

FLORENCE E. STARK

1927

loyal workers of past and present and an augury of the still broader fields to conquer and consolidate in the name of our veterans.

And, to the increase in Auxiliaries and members, we added Departments in Louisiana, Wyoming and Arkansas, and chartered fourteen new County Councils.

Adding twenty-eight new Auxiliaries gave first prize in that respect to the Department of California-Nevada.

In recognition of National President Julia Pitcock's birthday, the first step toward the Recreational Center at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home was taken by the Auxiliaries when the nucleus of a fund for financing the work was established, with the prospect of additional funds throughout the year making it possible to assure erection of the building within a reasonable time.

Again, on February 15, 1934, we had the opportunity to go "on the air," National President Pitcock giving a stirring address as part of the "Hello America" program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars over the National Broadcasting network.

Ever mindful of our Veteran comrades, the National Auxiliary had the privilege and pleasure of installing permanent furnishings at the Headquarters Office of the Commander-in-Chief at Washington, D.C., where the offices of the National Legislative Representatives are maintained.

The year in our history just closing was marked by an increasingly deeper interest in legislative and Americanization programs. The Honorary Commander-in-Chief's Cup, donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Americanization Director, Walter I. Joyce, was presented to Paul W. Hornaday Auxiliary, No. 1407, Michigan, for the most worthwhile activity, and the Anna Hanrahan Trophy was awarded to Alexander Hamilton Auxiliary, No. 139, of Paterson, New Jersey, for the most outstanding Americanization work of the year.

In this life we must take our sorrows with our joys. While,

annually, many join our ranks, each year witnesses the passing of others who have left us forever. At Louisville our hearts were saddened by the Great Reaper gathering 352 members to his own in the past twelve months, and our grief was particularly pointed by the death of Sister Sadie Kern, the second Past National President we had lost by death since the National Auxiliary was founded.

Though we be shocked, and pause momentarily as the scythe falls, it cannot stay our hand. We carry on, in the name of those who have left us for a brighter world, as well as in the service of those still with us and dependent on us for physical, mental and moral sustenance.

And in 1934-35 we chose to go forward under the leadership of Sister Winifred D. Toussaint, elected, and duly installed National President at Louisville, Kentucky, by Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Wolman.

Into the deep South, Louisiana, land of the Creole, we dipped down for our Twenty-Second Annual Encampment—in the charming, exotic atmosphere of old New Orleans, in 1935.

National President Winifred D. Toussaint had completed her first year of administration, and had won the hearts as well as the respect and admiration of all with whom she had come in contact during her continually active and constructive term. With her naturally buoyant spirit she sustained the morale of our entire organization on a high plane throughout the year.

"Every member get a member" was our membership slogan for 1934-35, with the result that a net gain of 8,197 new adherents was recorded, the greatest increase in membership the National Auxiliary had ever enjoyed in any one term.

Prior to the memorial services, National President Winifred D. Toussaint presented to the National Organization a beautiful white bible to be used at future memorial services in memory of her brother, Fred C. Hall, who was killed in France, November 4, 1918. Since last we had met, three hundred and sixty-three sisters

had passed to their eternal rest, but the memory of their companionship, loyalty and sacrifices will not soon be erased from our hearts.

This year we established a precedent. For the first time in the history of our Encampments we had a speaker address our National Auxiliary. Madame Julia Cantacuzene Grant, in an inspired address, stressed the advantages the women of America enjoy over their sisters of Europe, deepening still further our appreciation of what it means to be an American.

In the short term (eleven and one half months) of Sister Toussaint's first year as National President we gained two hundred and eighty-six new Auxiliaries, the Department of Pennsylvania capturing the prize with a total of thirty.

We welcomed the new Department of Nevada, making a total of thirty-eight Departments in all. Five new County Councils also were added, bringing the total to just fifty.

While many of our Auxiliaries were to be highly commended for their interest and industry in legislative and Americanism progress, Auxiliary No. 188 (Pennsylvania) captured the Honorary Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Americanization Director, Walter I. Joyce, for the greatest volume of effective newspaper publicity on Americanization Day.

The Anna Hanrahan Trophy was won by Auxiliary No. 1512, Department of California, for the greatest amount of general Americanism work and number of outstanding reports.

California was awarded a set of Americanism books, the gift of Hon. Theodore Francis Green, Governor of Rhode Island, for the most outstanding work in Americanism during the past year, as a special award.

"Mammy" dolls were made and sold by the local committee and the sum of $171.37 was realized. This was turned over to

Past National President

BESSIE HANKEN

1928 — 1929

National President Winifred D. Toussaint to be devoted to the Recreation Center (Community Center).

By the simple process of increasing the per capita tax from thirty to fifty cents, our national body was enabled to donate the sum of five thousand dollars to provide for the employment of a Medical Consultant at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Service Bureau at Washington, D.C., and five thousand dollars toward the support of the Department of Americanism. Thus we serve, with willing hands and grateful hearts; our service its own reward.

And as we serve, we expand. As our failing hands yield the scepters of authority, youth must be groomed to take our place. So, foresight on the part of our national body created a junior organization at the New Orleans Encampment, the "Daughters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars," for the purpose of enlisting youth on the side of Americanism and patriotism and gaining their aid in the advancement of both.

So closely had our National President woven herself into our hearts that we could not break the bonds, therefore Sister Winifred D. Toussaint was re-elected National President, and, with her officers, was installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Wolman to lead us another year closer to those greater heights of service which have ever been our aim.

At our 1936 Encampment, God's own handiwork stirred us to reach higher and still higher in our aims. Amid the awe-inspiring Rocky Mountains, in sight of Pike's Peak itself, we gathered in annual conclave for the twenty-third time, guests of the beautiful and hospitable city of Denver, Colorado.

Again under the charming, stimulating and efficient leadership of Winifred D. Toussaint progress had indelibly marked the work of our National Auxiliary through 1934-35. Evidence and acknowledgment of a highly successful administration was revealed in the record attendance at the Twenty-third Annual Encampment.

The Credentials Committee registered twenty-seven national officers; thirty-eight Department Presidents, out of forty-one; 1,006 delegates, and three hundred fifty-four alternates; a grand total of one thousand four hundred and twenty-five in attendance.

For the first time since the national charter was granted, we were honored and thrilled by the attendance of a representative from Hawaii, attributed by most of the delegates to the official visit of our National President, so absorbingly narrated in another part of this book.

To the thirty-eight Departments on record at the opening session, the Departments of North Dakota, Utah and Delaware were joined, making a total of forty-one. The fifty County Councils grew to fifty-eight in the same time.

Two hundred and thirty-nine new Auxiliaries had come into the fold, bringing our total in good standing to two thousand one hundred and sixty, the Department of New York again carrying off the prize for the greatest number over its quota, fifteen. Its quota was twenty-one.

Oregon was the first state to fill its quota and was honored with first prize for the highest percentage gain over its quota, a gain of sixty percent.

Both announcements were received with a round of applause, and a good-natured determination on the part of every other Department to show New York and Oregon what *they* could do in 1936 and '37.

States filling their quotas were Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire and Idaho.

Honorable mention was made of Departments which nearly filled their quotas; New Jersey, Arizona, California, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia.

We proudly recorded a continued gain in membership. The past year an increase of 5,086 made a total of approximately 74,000 with 53 Auxiliaries not reporting.

The Department making the largest percentage gain in membership was the Department of Arizona, with a percentage of 30.38%.

The Department of Ohio was awarded the prize for making the largest net gain, which was 371 members.

The Auxiliary with the largest percentage gain was Auxiliary 2281 of the Department of Wyoming, with a percentage of 16⅔%.

The Auxiliary with the largest net gain was Auxiliary 796 Department of Michigan with a net gain of 56 members.

The new Auxiliary with the largest net gain was Auxiliary 3421 Department of Nebraska, with a net gain of 23.

Now we were right on the heels of the three-quarter century mark in total members. With fifty-three Auxiliaries not reporting, the national roster showed approximately seventy-four thousand Auxiliary members in good standing, an increase of five thousand and eighty-six in Sister Toussaint's second administration.

No other body similar to ours has the opportunity for welfare work that the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home presents to the members of the Ladies Auxiliary. And, once we realized the responsibility, and appreciated the scope of possibilities of that institution we put our shoulders to the wheel with full and willing hearts and with most gratifying results. Concentrating for the time being on the Recreation Center, the Treasurer's Report showed that we had turned into that fund the splendid sum of $15,857.20, the Department of Pennsylvania being credited with the largest donation, $1,809.68.

Appropriate to the western atmosphere surrounding our Denver Encampment, souvenir cowboy hats were sold for the benefit of the Community Center at Eaton Rapids. The sum of $287.30 was netted, to which the Department of Minnesota added $12.70 bringing the total to a round $300.

Past National President

ADA E. HARRISON

1930

On the occasion of our Twenty-third Annual Encampment in the midst of the glorious Rockies, the National Home reported a community of nineteen cottages. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Department of Massachusetts showed the way by assuming the full responsibility of a cottage, the first Department of the Ladies Auxiliary to take a cottage under its wing, an example we hoped would be emulated by many other departments financially able to take the step.

Legislative and Americanism programs continued to receive the earnest support of our national and local bodies as a result of which deep interest and encouraging progress was reported by those entrusted with their promotion.

In the legislative field, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Ladies Auxiliary led the fight for payment of the Adjusted Service Certificates, popularly known as the "Bonus," and were highly instrumental in having this vital piece of legislation passed by the Congress over the President's veto. It was a long drawn out fight, but the final triumph was well worth the time and effort.

Furthermore, the victory was made doubly sweet by the good fortune of our National President in being seated in the gallery with several National Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary when the Senate overrode the Presidential "no" and passed this patriotic piece of legislation so important to the veterans and their families.

In the field of Americanism, the Carl H. Kreh Auxiliary 1123 of the Department of California won the Honorary Commander-in-Chief's trophy for the best publicity received concerning April 27th, National Americanism Day.

The Anna Hanrahan Trophy went to Raymond C. Burns Auxiliary 188, Department of Pennsylvania.

We have always lived up to our slogan, "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," but nothing supports our watchword with such concrete, such forceful evidence as the actual dollars and

cents invested, much of which means real, yet willing, sacrifice on the part of many of our loyal members.

In these days, when we speak in terms of billions, $40,000 might seem like a drop in the bucket, but when the devoted hearts and loving hands of our National Auxiliary dispense such a sum in the welfare work which is the soul of our service to the living, in honor of the dead, its measure is incalculable. The exact amount thus expended in the 1934-35 year was $39,714.08.

At the 1935 Encampment at New Orleans we had expanded our organization by establishing the Daughters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Looking forward to the time when they will carry on where we leave off, the juniors swung into line with all the enthusiasm and vim of youth, and at our twenty-third reunion were proud to report seventy-eight units actively and happily supplementing the work of the senior body.

For the fourth time in succession, the National President joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their annual nation-wide "Hello America" program over the National Broadcasting Network. In her most gracious and convincing manner, she inspired her listeners with a splendid address on "Organization."

As a token of deep affection, the Ladies Auxiliary presented to our parent organization a lovely white bible for use in their memorial services.

A special and thrilling tribute to our National President was the appearance at the Encampment of a delegation from New Jersey. Headed by Hon. Harold G. Hoffman, Governor of New Jersey and an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, his entire official family came to extend their greetings and felicitations.

In all the joys of our annual Encampments there must ring a note of sorrow, when we contemplate the passing of so many of those who have been as we are today. This year, among the three hundred and sixty-three commended to the keeping of their God,

we count National District Council Member, No. 6, Sister Lottie Merrill of Parsons, Kansas.

But ever our work must go forward, in honor of the dead, Veterans and Auxiliary alike. In that spirit, the past year recorded a new service to our country. As a patriotic contribution to the program celebrating the Statue of Liberty's Golden Jubilee, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored a

MISS EDNA FALK WAVING ADIEU FROM THE NORMANDIE

national essay contest among high school students on the subject, "What the Statue of Liberty Means to the American People," the first in a series which was to prove successful beyond our expectations.

Past National President

DORA E. RAFFENSPERGER

1931

Over one hundred thousand high school students entered the Statue of Liberty contest, and Miss Edna Falk, of Pueblo, Colorado, emerged national winner, her essay given first place by a committee of distinguished statesmen, patriots and educators.

Miss Falk was fairly showered with awards. Besides her local and state prizes, she was taken to New York, where she received a gold medal at the re-dedication ceremonies at the Statue of Liberty, in the presence of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was then sent to France on the great French liner Normandie; officially entertained in Paris, and guided on a tour of the national shrines of the republic.

Such splendid recompense for her efforts was made possible for Miss Falk through the generous cooperation with the Ladies Auxiliary, of the Federation of French Veterans of the Great War, and the French newspaper, *Paris Soir*.

While the many thousands of entrants outside the local, state and national winners did not win any specific prizes, their expenditure of time, thought and energy was not in vain, for the vast amount of thinking along American lines thus engendered could not fail to be of incalculable benefit to each individual as well as to the country as a whole.

One of the most auspicious gatherings in the twenty-five years of our existence, the Twenty-Third National Encampment at Denver, Colorado, closed with the installation of our new National President, Sister Gladys Mooney of Detroit, Michigan, and her sister officers. Past Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah Duff officiated at the installation.

1937, the year of our 24th National Encampment, witnessed the largest turnout in the history of our National Auxiliary, when the city of Buffalo, New York, played host to us at Elmwood Hall, with National President Gladys Mooney presiding.

Sister Mooney proceeded to break all precedent by having our then Commander-in-Chief, Brigadier-General Bernard W.

Kearney presented at that time and conducted to her station, where he received the salute of the entire assembly.

As is customary with our organization, we most cordially welcomed representatives of various other patriotic associations, bringing their greetings and giving their moral support to our aims and objectives.

To Comrade Kearney went the honor of making the first address before the Twenty-Fourth National Encampment. Brief and to the point, he sounded the opening note of the "Permanent Peace for America" theme, when he said, in part:

"I want to say to you ladies that I have never seen a more earnest group of workers, thoroughly one hundred per cent loyal to your organization, and from your National President down to

MISS EDNA FALK PLACING FLORAL TOKEN AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, PARIS, FRANCE, IN BEHALF OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, NOVEMBER 11, 1936.

the newest recruit in your ranks, ready and willing at all times to do anything they could for the betterment of their particular post, Auxiliary, Department or National, and I, as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, deeply appreciate all the fine things that you have done for our organization this year.

"Some few days ago, I had the distinct honor of leading a pilgrimage back to the battlefields of France, and one saw there in memory the things that he read happened nineteen years ago; and we participated in the dedication of those beautiful war memorials on the various battlefields of Belgium; and when I was seated next to a French officer who spoke very good English, he asked me how I liked the speeches, and I said, 'I am not listening to the speeches. My mind has gone back nineteen years ago, and the only thing I can see stretching before me is rank after rank and wave after wave of khaki-clad American boys crossing 'No Man's Land' to the enemy trenches."

With the introduction of Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Woodside, President of the National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, our deep interest and our obligations to the home were brought to the fore.

Comrade Woodside had with him several children from the Home, that the ladies might have visual evidence of the splendid character-molding work of the Home, under Comrade Woodside; and under Comrade Charles Adams, Director, and Sister Adams, both of whom were also present. All received a round of applause in appreciation of their devotion and splendid management.

Comrade Woodside was happy to announce that the Home had not had to dip into its reserves, principally because of a new idea for raising funds; the stamps with which every member is familiar. By that means the magnificent sum of $25,000 was obtained, $8,000 of which was from the Ladies Auxiliary alone.

At the close of Comrade Woodside's remarks, the assembled

Past National President

CONSUELO PEART DE COE

1932

delegates were thrilled to learn from the lips of our National President that we were to be extended the privilege of supplying the funds for the erection of a recreational center at the National Home, which it was hoped would be completely equipped and paid for by our next, our Silver Jubilee Encampment, at Columbus, Ohio.

Ever the pendulum swings and ticks off the lives of those who, but a short while ago, were as we, full of life and service to our Auxiliary and to our Veterans. We would be remiss if we did not pause annually to pay tribute to our dead, and this year our memorial services noted the passing of three hundred and sixty-three members of record who had joined in rest those thousands of sisters for whom "taps" had been sounded throughout the years.

In the name of those of our members who have preceded us to the great beyond, we reaffirm our faith and we rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace. In the name of those gallant lads who went, but never returned, we vow to do everything in our power to establish permanent peace in America. To that end, our 1937 Americanism program called for a prize for the most potent essay under the title "Permanent Peace for America."

One hundred and fifty thousand high school students responded with entries. From that multitude of earnest, patriotic, peace-minded youth, arose one essay that the national judges deemed fraught with the most promising and concrete proposals. The author was James Levergood of Union, New Jersey, and part of his reward was a trip to the National Encampment at Buffalo.

The winner of the second prize was Dorothy Stakel, of Winnemucca, Nevada; and the winner of the third prize was Wilfred Alan Gibson, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.

Interesting to note, the national winner was from the same state as our National Director of Americanism, Sister Winifred D. Toussaint, who was particularly proud to present James to the assembled delegates, after which James read his essay, and was then

presented with a gold medal and a check for $100. Further, he was informed that he was to return home by way of Washington, where he would have the privilege of visiting the shrines of our national capital and vicinity.

Revealing a profoundness of thought and insight, and balance of judgment hardly to be expected in a high school student, James Levergood's essay is included here.

* * * *

PERMANENT PEACE FOR AMERICA

James Levergood

"Mankind is continually striving for peace, but how many of these enthusiastic pacifists have a definite conception of what they are seeking? Many believe that a form of peace exists today. This is far from the real truth. It is true that the powers of the world are not actively engaged in a struggle employing the use of armies and navies, but they are continually struggling for supremacy by means of conference, which is, in itself, a form of war.

"Complete harmony among nations of the world is the ultimate goal of all sincere peace negotiations. When this goal has been attained, there will exist a neighborly relationship among all nations, without controversy of any sort.

"Ever since the close of the World War, attempts have been made to produce peace, and each one in its turn has failed. The reason is obvious. Every nation supports a different policy and is unwilling to modify it to any extent in order to bring about an international agreement. Peace conferences have been numerous,

and all have failed for this very reason. However, these very same people who refuse to alter their own standards in the least are the first to cast the blame on the stubbornness of another nation.

"In 1920 the foreign powers took up the League of Nations, after America had discarded it; and after struggling for five years, finally succeeded in establishing what appeared to be a world capital. Between the years 1926 and 1929 they made great strides toward peace under the leadership of Briand, Stresemann, and Chamberlain. With the death of Stresemann, however, the change was swift and far-reaching. Everything that had been accomplished by the League was undone and conditions fell once more into their former state. Thus the League, instead of being the meeting-place of peoples dedicated to the task of producing peace, became the battle-ground of national policies.

"The Kellogg Pact undertook to do two things; to make war illegal, and to pledge nations who renounce war as an instrument of policy to settle their disputes by arbitration. This act was, apparently, the long-sought-after solution; but one important point had been overlooked. No one had taken into consideration how such a law would be enforced. France came forth with the suggestion that it be enforced by armed forces, which would bring about the very thing that the movement was attempting to destroy.

"No problem of the post-war world has been attacked more frequently or with less success than that of disarmament. The foremost objection to disarmament is the fact that armies and navies are employed, to a great extent, to maintain law and order in national affairs. When the question of disarmament was first discussed, the United States and Great Britain were the first to agree to it. A treaty was suggested which would provide for equality between the armed forces of these two powers, but this idea was soon discarded, as Britain felt that, because of the amount of shipping she carried on in the Mediterranean, she must maintain a navy equally as strong as the combined forces of France

Past National President

JULIA L. PITCOCK

1933

and Italy. This meant that, as either France or Italy enlarged their forces, England would enlarge hers in proportion, and the United States would attempt to keep pace with England, bringing about a period of armament rather than disarmament. Thus all of these movements have failed.

"We know that the differences in the policies of the various nations of the world and the stubbornness of their supporters have made it impossible for peace to be established through such media as conferences and treaties. We, therefore, must look to some other source for a solution of this problem, and from all outward appearances, the United States has succeeded to a great extent in procuring the desired magic which will produce peace. At the present time our country is enjoying a perfectly harmonious relationship with Canada and Mexico. However, her friendliness does not stop at Mexico, but continues southward and takes in the whole of South America. This has been accomplished by nothing greater than the attitude of the citizens of these various countries. They look upon each other with a feeling of friendliness and trust, rather than with a feeling of hatred and distrust. Our President has personally made a visit to our northern neighbor, and in the few months just recently passed, he has made a trip to South America, where he strongly advocated, and received assurance, of peace between these nations and our own country.

"Before we can hope for any form of peace, we must first establish a common basis of agreement among the nations of the world. The field from which this common basis may be selected is large, but there is one outstanding situation upon which all the others lean for support. This is the economic situation. If this factor can be run on a basis which will be satisfactory to all concerned, the other causes of war will collapse around it.

"My proposal is to establish a World Court having complete authority among the signatory nations in all matters pertaining to commerce. Serving on this court will be one judge representing

Past National President

WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT

1934 — 1935

each nation holding jurisdiction over inter-ocean or inter-sea canals, and other judges serving on the basis of foreign export trade. All laws pertaining to international trade will be drawn up and enforced by the court. All cargoes marked by the seal of the court may be allowed to pass unmolested through any waters or over any territory under the jurisdiction of this body, but any unmarked cargo will be refused passage, and will not be permitted to be unloaded at any port. At all waterways, such as the Kiel Canal, the Dardanelles, the Suez, and Panama Canals, and the British Channel, shall be situated representatives of the court, who will handle the commercial affairs of his assigned location, and return a periodical report to the court, to whom he will be directly responsible. If a complaint should be brought before the court, both the plaintiff and the defendant will be allowed to continue trade until the case has been decided. The involved nations will then adhere to the verdict of the court. Countries which are not signatory nations, but which do not have the proper regard for the laws established by the court, may be prevented from trading in territory under the jurisdiction of the court. Such a movement would inevitably form the basis for a common cause which would bind the nations of the world into one harmonious group, which will ever strive to preserve the peace of the world."

James Levergood

Past National President

GLADYS MOONEY

1936

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS AT SILVER JUBILEE ENCAMPMENT

COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUGUST, 1938

FRONT ROW—FLORENCE E. STARK, PEARLE W. HARTUNG, LAURIE SCHERTLE, MARGARET A. ARMSTRONG, LYDIA RIEGEL, LENA PANZNER, EFFIE KING, MARGARET J. OLDRIDGE

BACK ROW—BESSIE HANKEN, CONSUELO PEART DE COE, DORA E. RAFFENSPERGER, GLADYS MOONEY, WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT, JULIA A. PITCOCK, ADA E. HARRISON.

The stronger we grow the more weight we shall have in our efforts to carry out such proposals as those made by the national winner of our "Permanent Peace for America" contest. So it is always encouraging to learn of the annual additions to our ranks; Auxiliaries, Departments, County Councils, members.

This year, the National Chief of Staff's report showed that we had gained one hundred forty-four new Auxiliaries, three new Departments and three new county councils, making the total of Auxiliaries two thousand, two hundred and forty-six.

In numerical gain New York stood first, with sixteen new Auxiliaries, yet Colorado made the greatest percentage gain. States exceeding their quotas were Colorado, New Hampshire, Nevada, Oklahoma and Delaware.

Our Americanism consciousness, and our work in behalf of legitimate Americanism programs grows yearly, and for their splendid efforts during the preceding year the Carl H. Kreh Auxiliary 1123, California, won the Anna Hanrahan trophy for the most outstanding general Americanism program.

For the most outstanding work and the most outstanding program on Americanism Day, the Clinton E. Fisk Auxiliary 132, Jersey City, New Jersey, was awarded the Walter I. Joyce Honorary Commander-in-Chief Trophy.

With all business disposed of Friday afternoon, September 3d, into the capable hands of Sister Laurie Schertle was placed the direction of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for 1937-38, she being duly and unanimously elected National President at Buffalo, New York.

In the history of the world, twenty-five years is a brief span. In the history of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the first quarter-century of our existence is an aeon of time, measured in service to Veterans and country. Translated into months, it represents three hundred calendar periods in each of which incalculable thought and action have been generated in

behalf of our heroic Veterans of Foreign Wars, their dependents; their widows and their orphans. Or, to make it still more impressive, it represents thirteen hundred weeks—10,000 days; 240,000 hours, every minute of which our pledges of devotion to Veteran and country have been in the forefront of our minds, and our activities. Every minute has been steeped in the spirit of service which imbued those noble, courageous pioneers who launched the shaky bark of what was destined to be the foremost Ladies Auxiliary in our great and glorious country.

With such thoughts in mind, 1239 delegates and other members gathered at Columbus, Ohio, August 21st to 26th, 1938, for the twenty-fifth National Encampment. They came from North, East, South and West to inaugurate our Silver Jubilee Anniversary Year. They came to mark the outstanding milestone on the long, long trail of our dreams of full justice to the Veterans of Foreign Wars—a thoroughly established permanent peace for America, a constitution inviolate and anchored to the rock of unmovable Americanism.

In keeping with the Silver Jubilee theme of the Columbus, Ohio, Encampment, when National President Laurie Schertle mounted the rostrum, the Past National Presidents Club presented Sister Schertle with a gavel bearing a silver inscription, to be used throughout the sessions of the Twenty-Fifth Encampment.

We have always been proud of the fact that our organization is held in high esteem by the other estimable patriotic organizations of the country, but seldom do we have the opportunity to witness such a graphic demonstration as preceded the memorial services Tuesday morning. Representatives of no less than twenty such organizations presented their felicitations on our twenty-fifth birthday, and, in acknowledgment, each was presented with a souvenir in the form of a silver paperweight bearing, in intaglio, a reproduction of our Auxiliary emblem and the place and dates of the Silver Jubilee Encampment.

Past National President

LAURIE SCHERTLE

1937

A most touching tribute to our quarter-century of service was rendered by a group of Gold Star Mothers, impressively attired in their white and gold uniforms. They had chartered a bus from Cleveland, Ohio, expressly for the occasion, and all remained and marched in the annual parade Tuesday afternoon.

No Encampments would be complete without a delegation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home. They are always more than welcome, but doubly were they so at Columbus, for their thoughtfulness at that time took the form of a gavel made of wood from the "Niagara," Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's flagship at the Battle of Lake Erie. The historic souvenir was presented by Past-Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Woodside, President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home, having been given to Comrade Woodside by Lawrence A. Taylor, Past Commander of Post No. 470. It was the National Home's commemorative gift in honor of our Silver Anniversary.

The committee of arrangements at Columbus, Ohio, made the most of the Silver Jubilee theme, instilling in the minds of all present the significance of our twenty-fifth anniversary. Most colorful and affecting was the procession of fourteen Past National Presidents to the National President's station.

As they came into the room, each Past National President was escorted by a member of an Ohio Daughters unit. She bore a lighted candle, which, in the ceremony, was presented to her escort as a symbol of the "passing of the torch" to those destined to follow in the footsteps of their mothers.

On the platform was a full-length silver frame to which each Past National President was led by National President Laurie Schertle. Standing behind the frame, each gracious lady made a veritable living picture as she was introduced to the assemblage, effectively arrayed in a long white dress of lace over a silver slip.

Americanism is more than the outward manifestation of patriotism. In its broadest sense, it is the American way of life

in all its phases; in school, in business, in public office, in society, in the home. So, with the domestic aspects of Americanism in mind, the Silver Jubilee Anniversary Committee invited Miss Ruth O'Brien, Chief of the Division of Textiles and Clothing of the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, to give our members expert advice in buying most advantageously for the home. At Wednesday's session, Miss O'Brien discussed that subject, which is so close to the heart of the thrifty housewife.

Wednesday afternoon also marked one of the highlights of the Silver Jubilee Encampment, the presentation of the national essay contest winner and the reading of the prize essay, rapidly becoming an institution at our National Encampments.

This year the major prize fell to 16-year old Mary Jane Beneditz, student at the Wausau, Wisconsin, High School. At the Wednesday afternoon session Miss Beneditz read her essay, which, beginning on the page following, is preserved here for present and future generations.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MARY JANE BENEDITZ

"We, the people of the United States, have the greatest political heritage of all nations, our Constitution. Ours is a glowing, living document, one of the simplest Constitutions in existence. It is the nucleus of the 'American Dream.' It is the definite embodiment of the principles we, as independent persons, demand that our government secure for us. It is the foundation for the most democratic system of government ever created.

"Our Constitution grew out of the strife and conflict attendant at the birth of a new nation over 150 years ago. The United States right after the Revolutionary War was a confederation of semi-independent states, bound together by that 'rope of sand,' the Articles of Confederation, which soon proved its inability to cope with the problems of the Union. In 1787, a group of prominent men of the country realized the great crisis the nation was passing through, and as a result of their farsighted judgment, the Constitutional Convention was called for the purpose of strengthening the federal government.

"Outstanding men whose names are now famous arrived at Philadelphia in the summer of that year to discuss the question, men such as the experienced George Washington, immediately elected president of the gathering; James Madison, whose research and carefully thought-out plans have gained for him the name,

'Father of the Constitution,' venerable Benjamin Franklin who gave the vigour of his mind, even though his body was weak and infirm; Alexander Hamilton, who by stimulating opposition to his own monarchical proposals helped make our government democratic; Edmund Randolph, John Rutledge, and the host of others. Is it any wonder that from an assemblage such as this would come 'the most perfected Federal Constitution that ever existed?'

"The great clash of ideas and opinions at first discouraged the members. They had almost insurmountable problems confronting them and many different proposals for solving them. But it was these very disagreements which made our Constitution great, for the resulting compromises were the sanest, most practical solutions to the various problems. Our democratic bicameral Congress is the result of the Great Compromise on representation. The slave compromise temporarily settled the problem of slavery at a time when a serious clash might have meant the death of the Union. When the problem concerning an executive of the new government arose, that too was settled by a compromise which provided for a president to be selected by an electoral college. The main features of the new federal government were finally based upon the Virginia Plan, originated by the scholarly James Madison. Thus our Constitution slowly shaped itself under the skilled hands of fifty-five great statesmen.

"The struggle for ratification of the completed Constitution was bitterly fought. It was opposed by the small farmers and workers of the nation, who feared it as a possible powerful and aristocratic government. However, the promised addition of the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, lessened this fear. Several states ratified it on the condition that this promise would be fulfilled, which was accomplished. In this way, we, the American People, made the tremendous gain of possessing a definite statement of civil liberties.

"Thomas Jefferson once said, 'Laws and institutions must

go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind.' It is in this respect that the Constitution reveals its greatness. Our Constitution has not remained a static foundation of government; it has grown along with the nation. As conditions changed or new problems evolved, our government expanded and molded itself to fit these circumstances. During the 150 years of its existence, more than 3200 amendments have been proposed to the Constitution, of which twenty-one were ratified by the States and incorporated in the document. These twenty-one amendments show the progressive nature of the Constitution, how it has been adapted to meet the needs of a rapidly growing nation. Our Constitution has been governed by its ability to serve the citizens of the country, and consequently, changes are a vital part of its existence.

"What does the Constitution mean to us, the people of the United States? Rather, what does liberty mean to us? What does religious tolerance mean to us? How highly do we value freedom of speech and press? Particularly at this period of history, when the world is aflame with persecution and intolerance and regimentation, our Constitution stands out as a sacred safeguard of the rights of the individual. Mild assumption of power by the Federal Government has recently brought forth accusations that personal rights have been surrendered, which proves that our people cherish the liberties given them in the Constitution and are alert to any threatened usurpation. More than ever before, we appreciate the free atmosphere of our country, with its conspicuous absence of secret police, government censors, and concentration camps. Liberty is impregnated throughout the Constitution; we rest assured in our Constitutional guarantees of freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, right to trial by jury—these are the glorious phrases inbred in every citizen. The full significance of these civil liberties is almost too great to be appreciated.

"The Constitution was originated as a simple foundation of government for a new country, but it has become infinitely more than that. As Senator William E. Borah said, 'It . . . (has) . . . served the cause of human happiness as has no other document in the history of the world. Under it the average citizen emerged from a state of serfdom to that of a sovereign.' Our country, the United States, may at some far-distant date fall, as have other great nations, but the Constitution will remain until the end of man. It is a symbol of the advancement of civilization. Through its magnificent concept of government and the individual, it has served the entire world, indeed, all mankind."

MARY JANE BENEDITZ

* * * *

Thrilled through and through, Miss Beneditz arrived in Columbus tuesday, when she viewed the annual parade; and from that moment on every hour was filled to overflowing for the modest maid from Wausau, in the fair state of Wisconsin. First, she was handed a check for $100, then an autographed copy of "The Signing of the Constitution," by Howard Chandler Christy, then a gold medal by Director of Americanism Gladys Mooney. And then, she was off on a trip to the nation's capital, where sight after sight and experience after experience followed in rapid succession.

Wednesday evening, August 24th, prior to Miss Beneditz's departure, all of the contest winners were announced over the Mutual Broadcasting System, Miss Beneditz in person; winners of second and third prizes in absentia. The latter two were, respectively, Douglas Williamson of Davenport, Iowa, whose prize was $50, and Robert Bruce Hill of Saugus, Massachusetts, who captured the third prize of $25. Their checks and gold medals were presented by the state essay chairman in the respective states.

No Ladies Auxiliary National Encampment would be complete without the annual, and personal, greetings of the Com-

NATIONAL PRESIDENT LAURIE SCHERTLE CUTTING BIRTHDAY CAKE AT 25th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUGUST 25th, 1938.

mander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This year Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres honored us with his presence and bestowed upon our National President a most unique and expressive gift—two colored dolls representing "harmony" and "cooperation,"—symbolizing the cordial relations which existed between the Commander-in-Chief and our National President throughout their concurrent terms of office. The official gift of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to Sister Schertle was a beautiful silver serving set. Reciprocating in kind, our National Auxiliary expressed its appreciation for twenty-five years of cooperation on the part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by presenting the Veterans with a resolution of thanks in a silver frame, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Ball.

To all delegates, and to all who brought greetings, silver poppies were presented by the Silver Jubilee Committee.

As was most appropriate, there seemed to be silver, silver everywhere. But there was one gift not in the silver line, though to all of us it is the silver lining to the dark clouds of threatening conflict that overhang the world from time to time—our own, our

glorious star-spangled banner. Headed by Past National President Margaret A. Armstrong, with National President Laurie Schertle and Past National President Winifred D. Toussaint, the Ladies Auxiliary Greeting Committee presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars with a large silk American flag for their Kansas City offices.

The gifts didn't end there, for, when National President Laurie Schertle entertained all Past Commander-in-Chiefs and Past National Presidents of our Auxiliary at a surprise dinner, the company that manufactures most of the jewelry supplied through National Headquarters at Kansas City, Mo., presented each of the fourteen Past National Presidents with a miniature Past National

NATIONAL PRESIDENT LAURIE SCHERTLE GREETING FIRST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MARGARET A. ARMSTRONG, AT THE SILVER JUBILEE ENCAMPMENT, COLUMBUS, OHIO, WHILE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTE SMILES APPROVAL.

President's pin in white gold, set with a diamond. At the same time, National Secretary-Treasurer Grace H. Davis received a similar pin.

More silver—a new trophy added to the awards for the Silver Jubilee Year. Donated by the Past National Presidents Club, a silver trophy becomes an annual award to the winning women's drill team. The Des Moines drill team had the honor of winning this trophy for the first year, Florence E. Stark, President of the Past National Presidents Club, making the presentation.

If activity and growth are signs of youth, reports of the committee on officers' reports showed us striding forward with undiminished vigor; heads up, eyes front, swinging along together, side by side with our noble Veterans, growing younger every day with the infusion of new blood from the rising generation rapidly coming forward to take our places.

And, we can think of no finer tribute to those who will soon step into our shoes than that of the National Junior Activity Chairman in her report on the junior activities, submitted to the Columbus, Ohio, Encampment: —

"The Daughters have taken a firm hold on all the activities laid out for them. They are keenly interested in the children of our National Home and the disabled Veterans in the hospitals. All kinds of clubs have been established in these units, and especial efforts are being made to observe all patriotic holidays. They participate in parades, have some very fine bands and drum corps, as well as many drill teams. They take part in all functions and assist the parent Auxiliary whole-heartedly at every opportunity. They have become a recognized group in their communities and are rapidly securing themselves a place among the leading patriotic organizations in our country."

That the seniors are keeping their end up is well established by their success in organizing one hundred and thirty-one new

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS — KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

UPPER LEFT—SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT. *LOWER LEFT*—SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S FILES, TREASURY DEPARTMENT. *CENTER*—OFFICE OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER. *UPPER RIGHT*—MEMBERSHIP AND CHARTER FILES; AMERICANISM AND FOREIGN SERVICE DEPARTMENTS. *LOWER RIGHT*—PART OF SECRETARY'S OFFICE; BACKGROUND, HOME FUND AND TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.

IDA S. COHEN
NATIONAL SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT

GRACE H. DAVIS
NATIONAL SECRETARY-
TREASURER

MABEL C. TANNER
NATIONAL JUNIOR
VICE PRESIDENT

MARIE C. DE WITT
NATIONAL CHIEF OF STAFF

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ANNA MAE LOCHNER

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF ON PAGE OPPOSITE

Auxiliaries and adding 6,000 new members to our rolls. And nothing more concretely illustrates the noble, unselfish and widespread humanitarian work of our Auxiliaries than the reports on rehabilitation and humanitarian service. In the year preceding our Silver Jubilee, nearly $60,000 was expended in twenty-nine states, to say nothing of the countless hours of time, and the energy expended by our members in the rehabilitation department.

The same applies to our humanitarian service, which shows an actual cash outlay of almost $70,000 during the same period. And those are but two items which should make us proud to be members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We should be proud also of the attendance at our twenty-fifth National Encampment, when 1239 delegates, and Department and National Officers were registered.

Without injection of climate, citrus products, or any other mutually controversial subject to mar the delightful proceedings, California gracefully gave way to Florida when retiring National President Laurie Schertle handed the gavel over to the new National President, Anna Mae Lochner, of St. Petersburg, Florida.

And the first and glorious twenty-five years were hailed as an augury of a still more glorious twenty-five years to come.

In Memoriam

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS
LADIES AUXILIARY
TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SADIE KERN . . . FEBRUARY 27, 1934

KATE HUTCHESON . JANUARY 6, 1931

●

PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

THOMAS CRAGO . . SEPTEMBER 12, 1925

ALBERT J. RABING . APRIL 3, 1927

COLONEL TILLINGHAST L. HUSTON
MARCH 29, 1938

BRIGADIER GENERAL LLOYD M. BRETT
SEPTEMBER 23, 1927

FRANK T. STRAYER . OCTOBER 24, 1929

ADMIRAL ROBERT E. COONTZ
JANUARY 26, 1935

●

HONORARY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

WALTER I. JOYCE . NOVEMBER 24, 1937

LIFE

Life! I know not what thou art,
But know that thou and I must part;
And when, or how, or where we met,
I own to me's a secret yet.
Life! we've been long together
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear—
Perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
—Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time;
Say not Good Night—but in some brighter clime
Bid me Good Morning!

Anna Letitia Barbauld

(OBVERSE)

(REVERSE)

SOUVENIR PAPERWEIGHT PRESENTED TO GUESTS AT 25th NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUGUST, 1938

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES 1899-1939

At Concord the American patriots "fired the shot heard 'round the world." That shot marked an era in our history, the clarion call for freemen to found the greatest democracy of all time.

February 15, 1898, changed the course of that nation. In the harbor of Havana, Cuba, fate rose out of the depths, tore a noble ship asunder, claimed the lives of two hundred and sixty-six American sailors, and set the stage for the Spanish-American War, fought to the cry of "Remember the Maine." A war that was destined to open the eyes of the world to the fighting qualities of Uncle Sam, and launch the old gentleman on a career of involuntary world expansion.

Figuratively, February 15th, 1898, also was the birthday of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, for it was out of the comradeships formed in Spanish-American War days that the collective comradeship of post-war days was consolidated into the greatest overseas veterans organization this country has ever known.

Associations formed on the field of battle have a peculiarly intimate nature which seem to bind men closer than any other experience in life. The very beings of those who have faced death side by side are inseparably merged. And the spirit of service engendered in martial days imbues the Veterans of Foreign Wars today; that selflessness seared into the soul amid shot and shell.

Therefore, it seems fitting to include between the covers of this book, at least a brief reminder of the outstanding feats of a war which made our country a world power, and inspired those noble pioneers to consolidate, to make permanent the brotherhood of service sealed in American blood.

A blot on colonial administration; a cesspool of iniquity,

and torn by thirty years of revolution under Spanish misrule, the island of Cuba was a festering sore in the side of our diplomatic and economic relations.

Exercising every ounce of tolerance and patience, we strove to preserve peace by every honorable measure, but in vain, for when it was well established that an outside source was responsible for the destruction of the Maine and her martyr crew, no other course was open but to declare war.

And did we "Remember the Maine?" Did Admiral Dewey remember at Manila; Schley and Sampson at Santiago; Shafter, Lawton, Wood, Wheeler, Hawkins, Chaffee, Roosevelt and all the rest at San Juan and El Caney? Ask the heroes who fought under them, many of whom are still in our ranks.

Though separated by thousands of miles the armies of Cuba and Porto Rico, and of the Philippines gave equally of themselves and shared equally the common victory.

Comradeship, cast in such mold endures forever. Born of war, it comes to full fruition in days of peace; in service to country and fellow man, in sacrifice for ideals, in preservation of, and loyalty to democratic institutions, in establishng permanent peace for America. In short, upholding the constitution and by-laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States had its origin in an ideal of patriotic service. Its founders were men who had but recently returned from active service in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War. They believed that American citizenship involved a responsibility of service in times of peace as well as in war.

Banded together in an organization which would be a peacetime counterpart of the military organizations to which they had belonged, these men envisioned a future of continuous service to their country, their flag and the comrades with whom they served.

This great society, the largest organized group of overseas veterans in the United States, with nearly 4,000 local chapters located in the 48 states of the U. S. A., the Hawaiian Islands, the Philippines, Alaska and Paris, France, has developed from that handful of Veterans of the Spanish-American War who first banded together to perpetuate the comradeship and patriotic service of their shared experiences.

Many of those who played a part in the development of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are gone. Gone, likewise, are some of the records which told the story of those first few years. Perhaps because not even its most devoted members could foresee this great organization as it is today, official documents were not completely safeguarded. So that, in tracing the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it has been necessary to assemble fragmentary and sometimes rather vague reports which leave part of that history unrevealed.

There is another circumstance which complicates the detailed recording of Veterans of Foreign Wars history during its first few years. To understand that circumstance, it is necessary to go back to the days immediately following the Spanish-American War, when Veterans, returning from Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, were moved to band themselves together in a number of different groups, according to their geographical locations. Thus, almost simultaneously, societies of Spanish-American War Veterans came into being in Ohio, Colorado, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Virtually all of these played an important part in the evolution of the organization known today as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The basic idea of these organizations—as is the basic idea of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States today—was one of perpetuity. They were conceived as "evergreen" societies which, by admitting to membership Veterans of *all* of America's wars, should continue to exist so long as America should continue

to participate in war. According to all available records, the founders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars particularly wanted their fraternity to continue as a live and active organization long after the veterans of any one of America's wars had gone. Perhaps this conception of an evergreen Veterans organization was due in part to the fact that the founders, Veterans of the war with Spain, knew how the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans had lost their strength and influence as the increasing years decimated their ranks of Civil War Veterans.

The first of the component parts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as it is today, came into being on September 23, 1899, in a clothing store at 286 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio. There, at the invitation of James C. Putnam, a Veteran of the Spanish-American War and of the Sioux Indian uprising in the Dakota Bad Lands, were assembled, according to Comrade Putnam, fourteen Veterans of the war with Spain. Overseas service was to be a requirement of membership, in the mind of Putnam, and it was discovered that one of the fourteen was not eligible under those conditions. A newspaper clipping in the possession of Comrade James Romanis, of Columbus, today, is the authority for the names of twelve of the thirteen. It reads in part as follows:

"A very successful meeting of the ex-members of the 17th United States Infantry was held at 286 East Main Street Friday evening. By a vote of those present Francis DuBiel (Owner of the clothing store, now deceased.—Ed. Note.) was chosen temporary chairman and James Romanis secretary. Prominent among those present were James C. Putnam, Walker Waddington, B. J. DuRant, George Kelly, John Malloy, Oscar Brookins, Charles Click, John H. Clark, David Brown and George Beekman."

According to Comrade Romanis, minutes of that first meeting, in his possession until 1920, are missing at present, so that the newspaper clipping is the only record available at this time.

"Of the twelve mentioned, seven are alive today, as far as is known," Comrade Romanis writes National Headquarters. "They are Putnam, Waddington, DuRant, Kelly, Malloy, Brookins and Romanis."

The late Major Will S. White, second Commander-in-Chief of the A. V. of F. S., was not one of the original members of the group, Romanis states. He joined a few months after its organization and succeeded Comrade Putnam as Commander-in-Chief when the latter was forced to resign because of business reasons.

The group adopted the name, Lawton Camp No. 1, American Veterans of Foreign Service. The first By-Laws and Constitution were drafted by Comrade Putnam. On October 7, a delegation from the new organization appeared before the Secretary of State of Ohio and petitioned for a charter, which was granted on October 11, 1899.

According to the official records at National Headquarters, Kansas City, Mo., painstakingly compiled over a period of years by the late National Historian J. I. Billman, the A. V. of F. S. immediately began to establish branches in other cities. He lists a unit at Cincinnati and Hamilton, Marysville, Delaware and Marion, Ohio; Sparta, Ill., and Portsmouth, N. H., as the locations of other new chapters organized within a few weeks of the September 23 founding.

Meanwhile, at Denver, Colo., on December 12, 1899, there met a group of Spanish-American War Veterans, called together by General Irving Hale, who had just returned from the Philippines with his regiment, the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry. The meeting was held at the State Capitol, and today, placed there by the Denver County Council, Department of Colorado, and unveiled on Memorial Day, 1938, a bronze tablet commemorates that historic meeting.

At this and several subsequent meetings, was perfected an

organization called the Army of the Philippines. The new unit took the name John S. Stewart Post No. 1 and it is active today under that same name and number—undoubtedly establishing it as the first Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars which has maintained its identity as such continuously throughout the subsequent years.

By a coincidence, about this time, there was established another organization calling itself the American Veterans of Foreign Service, which was founded at Altoona, Pa., with, so far as is known, no knowledge of the Ohio society of the same name. On July 7, 1901, H. O. Kelly invited a number of returned Veterans to meet at the Engel House, Altoona, to discuss the formation of an organization. About twenty men responded, representing several regiments and adopted the name "Philippine War Veterans." The group met at irregular intervals but retained its status as a definite organization for the following several years. In the meantime, on October 13, 1901, another group of Philippine veterans met at Pittsburgh, Pa., and decided to form an organization which they named Veterans of the Philippine War. Similarly, at Philadelphia on July 24, 1902, a number of Veterans came together at the call of Captain Robert L. Hansbury and formed what came to be known a little later as the Society of American Veterans of the Philippine and China Wars.

These three groups—at Altoona, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia—all had knowledge of one another. Correspondence developed between them and it was decided to hold a joint convention at Altoona in September, 1903. This was accomplished and it was shortly after the amalgamation that the various names were consolidated into American Veterans of Foreign Service.

At the first meeting of the amalgamated body, in Allegheny, September 14, 15, 16 and 17, 1904, one of the distinguished guests was James Romanis, of Columbus, Ohio, then Commander-in-Chief of the western society of that name. A few days before,

on September 11, George Metzger of Pittsburgh, had been a guest of the fourth national convention of the western society of American Veterans of Foreign Service at Cincinnati. Both groups began to realize the possibilities of joining together, since their aims and purposes were identical as were their names. Throughout the following year, the leaders of both groups worked towards the desired merging which finally came about at Altoona, September 13, 14 and 15, 1905. The individual units numbered twelve, ten from the eastern and two from the western branch.

With slow but steady increase in individual membership and the number of their units, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the Army of the Philippines continued their respective developments for the next seven or eight years. During 1912-1913, the movement for the amalgamation of the two societies steadily was growing. The story of that amalgamation is briefly summarized in the official report of National Historian Robert E. Kernodle, at the 37th annual National Encampment, Denver, Colo., in 1936.

Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt (1933-1936), in order to clarify some controversial points and bring about the settlement of a vital issue concerning the early history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, had appointed the following committee to study the question: National Historian Kernodle, chairman; Past Commander-in-Chief Theodore Stitt; Past Commander-in-Chief Eugene P. Carver, Jr.; Past Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah N. Duff, Max Singer and John J. Skillman, members of the National Council of Administration.

Meeting at New Orleans, La., on September 19, 1935, this committee intensively studied all the historical records in the possession of National Headquarters and incorporated their findings in the report submitted to the Denver Encampment by Comrade Kernodle.

That report reads in part as follows:

"Your committee . . . . has come to the conclusion that the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States came into existence as a result of amalgamations over a period of years of five entirely distinct foreign service organizations. These organizations came into being entirely independent of one another and without the knowledge, originally, of one another. These were as follows: American Veterans of Foreign Service; formed in Columbus, Ohio, September 23, 1899. The Colorado Society of the Army of the Philippines formed in Denver, Colo., December 12, 1899. The Philippine War Veterans; formed in Altoona, Pa., July 7, 1901. The Philippine War Veterans; formed in Pittsburgh, Pa., October, 1901. American Veterans of Philippine and China Wars; formed in Philadelphia, Pa., July 24, 1902.

"Of these original organizations, the oldest Post in point of continuous existence is what is known as Stewart Post No. 1, Denver, Colo., which has continuously functioned as a Post since December 12, 1899.

"These five organizations had by merger become two, then known as the Army of the Philippines and the American Veterans of Foreign Service, which met jointly in Denver, Colo., August, 1913, and voted to amalgamate and adopted first the name, the Army of the Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Later, by plebescite during the year, the name was changed to its present one, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"It is the opinion of the committee that officers and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in referring to our history, should bring out the fact that no one of these five original organizations can call itself the parent organization, as each amalgamation recognized that separate and distinct organizations were merging for their mutual benefit and did not recognize either of the amalgamating organizations as in any way subordinate to the other. Each had carried on its own organization work, and the only priority that can in any way be recognized is the date of the organization of the merging units."

According to the late Past National Historian J. I. Billman, the newly amalgamated organization started with a membership of sixty-nine Posts. Today, more than 3,700 Posts are organized in cities and towns throughout the country and in many foreign lands. In other words, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has maintained an average increase of more than 145 Posts a year for each and every one of the twenty-five years between the Denver amalgamation and 1938. Actually, the story of its growth is even more impressive, for it was not until after the World War that the Gold Chevron Order began the rapid expansion which has brought it to the place it occupies today—the largest organized group of overseas Veterans in the country, with a history of legislative, welfare and Americanism achievements that places it among the most influential organizations in the United States today.

Immediately following the World War, thousands of Veterans, returning from active service in the zones of warfare on the high seas and at hundreds of far-flung points besides the western front in France, found themselves mentally and spiritually where their older comrades-in-arms had been twenty years before.

They were a group apart. No man, who had carried a bayonet, manned a machine gun, kept watch on shipboard for the periscopes of enemy submarines, or survived the perils of No Man's Land, could ever again return quite to the status of his pre-war life. There were memories of hardship, suffering, danger that would forever remain in his consciousness as transcendent experiences. Moreover, these experiences had brought close together in an unique fellowship, all the men who had shared them. Comrades-in-arms who had marched together along the muddy roads leading to Flanders Fields, soldiers who had gone over the top side by side beneath the screech of shells and the thunder of cannon, all men who had seen strange lands and stranger sights under the flying folds of the Stars and Stripes, felt a close comradeship, one for the other. Deep in their hearts was a desire to perpetuate that com-

radeship; maintain a brotherhood born of war and patriotic service.

These instincts and convictions brought World War Veterans into the Gold Chevron Order by the thousands. It still is bringing them in today, for the increasing years have intensified, rather than lessened, the comradeship instinct.

Moreover, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has added so brilliant a chapter to the history of the country that its achievements, and its continuing aims and purposes, have an irresistible appeal for men to whom the word patriotism is a living symbol and an ideal.

To list its achievements is virtually impossible from the standpoint of space. Briefly, however, it is possible here to summarize some of the activities, programs and attainments that constitute Veterans of Foreign Wars history.

In the first place, the three-fold Veterans of Foreign Wars purpose is Veteran care, child welfare and Americanism. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has either instituted or supported every major Veteran welfare legislative enactment in American government, since 1899. Specifically, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the only Veteran organization that has an unbroken record of militant activity in behalf of the immediate cash payment of World War Veterans' Adjusted Service Certificates. From 1925 until 1936, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, unsupported by any other group, waged consistent warfare which not only brought about the 50 percent loan act of 1931, but served to make the "bonus" issue one of such general public interest that the passage of the bonus bill in 1936, over the President's veto, was in accordance with the will and demand of the voting American public as a whole.

It was the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in 1929, that succeeded in bringing back the bodies of eighty-six American soldiers who had perished during the A. E. F.-Bolshevik campaign in Si-

beria, after the United States government itself had failed in its negotiations.

It was the Veterans of Foreign Wars that, under the able generalship of the late National Patriotic Instructor Walter I. Joyce, then Americanization Chairman, successfully promoted the campaign which made "The Star Spangled Banner" the official national anthem, by Congressional action.

To the Veterans of Foreign Wars also is due the credit for laying the groundwork which resulted, in 1920, in the enactment of the Sells bill providing general service pensions for Veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the Chinese Boxer Rebellion. Colonel Thomas S. Crago was elected Commander-in-Chief at the Pittsburgh, Pa., Encampment in 1914. Commander-in-Chief Crago, who had served as a Company Commander during the Philippine Insurrection and was specially mentioned for gallantry in the Manila Campaign, was elected a member of Congress from his home district in Pennsylvania, in 1910, and was then elected Congressman at Large for four successive terms. During his service in the House of Representatives, Colonel Crago was an influential member of important committees, especially on pensions and military affairs. He prepared and sponsored the Crago pension bill, the first serious effort made to obtain pensions for Spanish War Veterans. After several years, the objectives of the Crago bill were incorporated, in part, in the successful Sells bill.

It was the Veterans of Foreign Wars, again unsupported by any other veteran organization, which secured the passage of the Disability Allowance Act of 1930, by which disability allowances and service pensions were provided for permanently disabled World War Veterans regardless of the origin of their disabilities.

Legislation pertaining to pensions for Spanish War Veterans, domiciliary care for disabled Veterans of all wars, medical treatment and hospital care, Emergency Officers' retirement pay,

vocational training and innumerable state laws providing soldiers' "bonuses," Veteran employment preference and other benefits are among the legislation either initiated or strongly supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such achievements have always gone hand-in-hand with the numerical growth of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Under its general child welfare program, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States established a project unique in all American public welfare history. In 1925, at Eaton Rapids, Mich., was founded the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for the orphans of war Veterans. Here, in a "Children's Village" comprising more than twenty-five separate buildings, live a community of sons and daughters of former Veterans, their lodging, food, education, health and entire care the proud and voluntarily assumed charge of the membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. In 1938, approximately 200 children, ranging in age from 4 to 5 to 17 years, were charges of the Gold Chevron Order at the Michigan home. They live in family-size groups in individual cottages erected by various state Departments of the order.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home is but one of literally thousands of undertakings sponsored by the organization under the general broad heading of Americanism and junior activities.

True to its conception of American citizenship as service to one's country, one's flag and one's fellow man, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has never recognized any limitations on the extent of its participation in the welfare and betterment of community, state and nation. Virtually all of the 3,700 Posts and approximately 2,000 Auxiliary units conduct year-round programs which embrace educational, recreational, safety, health and various welfare objectives. Hundreds of junior bands, drum and bugle corps and drill teams throughout the country provide wholesome tutelage to thousands of youngsters under Veterans of Foreign Wars aus-

pices. Bicycle safety clubs, school safety patrols, summer camps, milk and other necessities for under-privileged children, relief and welfare work among the needy of thousands of communities—these and scores of other activities exemplify the Veterans of Foreign Wars tradition of service.

In time of national disaster or need, the Veterans of Foreign Wars mobilizes its strength to give assistance. One example, alone, will suffice to illustrate this phase of Veterans of Foreign Wars activity. When the Ohio and Mississippi River floods of the early spring of 1937 made thousands homeless, devastated millions of dollars worth of property and cost scores of lives, the Veterans of Foreign Wars was among the first agencies to offer immediate relief to the victims and refugees of one of the worst flood disasters in the history of the country. The then Commander-in-Chief, Bernard W. Kearney, immediately authorized, through National Headquarters, a gift of $10,000 to the American Red Cross, which, as always, was in charge of all national disaster relief activities.

Hundreds of Posts in the Veterans of Foreign Wars assumed charge of the flood relief activities in their respective communities. In the stricken areas, although Veterans of Foreign Wars Post headquarters and the homes of members themselves were submerged and scores of Veterans of Foreign Wars families made homeless, Post and Auxiliary members worked day and night during the emergency period, rescuing stranded persons, providing temporary shelter for the homeless, opening food kitchens which functioned as long as the need existed. In addition, the major share of Posts in the organization themselves contributed individually and heavily to relief funds, some out of their Post treasuries, others from specially arranged and sponsored benefit activities. It is impossible to record accurately the assistance offered during this national emergency in the way of money, provisions, personal service and other contributions. Suffice it to say that from all available

reports, the Veterans of Foreign Wars responded to its country's need in 1937 as it did in 1917 and in 1918, with selfless service and voluntary sacrifice.

The Americanism program of the Gold Chevron Order is supervised from Washington, D. C., where offices are maintained for the Director of the National Department of Americanism and his staff. Also at Washington is the National Service and Rehabilitation Bureau of the order, where a score of trained workers provide expert assistance to members and non-members alike on all matters having to do with service records, government pensions and compensation, hospitalization, insurance claims and a thousand and one other legal and technical matters.

Establishment of the Service Bureau is another example of Veterans of Foreign Wars initiative and leadership. Authorized by the 1919 National Encampment at Providence, R. I., the Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Bureau was the first agency of the sort established by any veteran organization. Several of the other major Veteran groups of today were not even organized at that time, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognized the value of opening a Washington branch office whose staff would be in a position personally to consult government records and to work in close association with all federal government agencies having to do with Veterans' welfare and claims. Through this Washington Service Bureau, the Veterans of Foreign Wars also has been able, through the years, to cooperate almost daily with the Veterans' Administration which evolved from the former Veterans' Bureau and other government agencies.

The National Legislative Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars also has its headquarters at Washington, D. C., where a close watch is maintained on all Congressional activities having to do with Veteran welfare.

In this connection, one of the most important and popular projects ever undertaken by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

United States culminated, in April, 1938, with the presentation to Congress of the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Keep America Out of War" petition, signed by more than four million American citizens.

This petition, calling upon Congress to adopt policies which would keep America out of war, supported by an adequate national defense, was circulated throughout the country by hundreds of Veterans of Foreign Wars units with the cooperation of literally thousands of other organizations and groups. Some of the largest schools and universities of the country endorsed the petition which was signed by thousands of students. Church groups, civic societies, patriotic organizations and more than 1,200 newspapers were among the cooperating agencies in this mammoth Americanism undertaking, which mobilized the public opinion of the country in a great demand for continued peace.

No historical sketch of the Veterans of Foreign Wars would be complete without at least a mention of two other events, both of which were international in scope. Among the distinguished guests at the 36th annual National Encampment at New Orleans in 1935 were a group of outstanding military leaders of Japan, representing the Japanese Veterans Association, who came to the United States on a goodwill mission inspired by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Following the Encampment, this goodwill mission made a nationwide tour of many of the larger cities throughout the country, where they were received by Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and by officials representing city, state and national governments of the United States.

The following year, under the leadership of the then Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, a delegation of Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and members made a return visit to Japan, as the guests of the Japanese Veterans Association, when the nation as a whole united to do them honor. One of the highlights of the Japanese tour was the international radio broadcast by Com-

mander-in-Chief Van Zandt and officers of the Japanese Veterans Association.

In 1937, another Veterans of Foreign Wars delegation toured the World War battlefields of France, Belgium and England. This group, headed by then Commander-in-Chief Bernard W. Kearney, made the trip at the invitation of the American Battle Monuments Commission of which Honorary Commander-in-Chief General John J. Pershing was chairman, and Past Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Woodside, vice-chairman. On this occasion, likewise, the visit served to emphasize international amity and accord, bringing closer together in understanding and friendship, the peoples of nations on either side of a great ocean.

In the contemporary, history of our nation, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States stands dedicated to a continuation of the purposes and principles upon which it was founded. Its immediate objectives include legislation for the adequate care of the widows, orphans and dependent parents of World War Veterans on a basis equal to that accorded the dependents of Veterans of previous wars. The Veterans of Foreign Wars blazed a new trail, late in 1937, with the formulation of its demand that "jobs or pensions" be provided for all disabled and unemployed Veterans, on the grounds that the nation owed an opportunity to be self-supporting to all the men who had served its need in time of war.

The promotion and protection of Americanism, with special emphasis on the safeguarding of the American Constitution and the American form of government from alien-inspired theories of government such as communism, naziism and fascism, was the third point in the four-point 1937-38 program of Veterans of Foreign Wars objectives, while the fourth was to "Keep America Out of War." In furtherance of the latter objective, the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored a special program which sought permanent neutrality for America, federal control of the manufacture and sale

of munitions, the de-profitizing of war, should war occur, through the series of steeply graduated income and other taxes outlined in the proposed S. 3912 and a national defense adequate to support and protect these policies.

One of the last Veterans of Foreign Wars legislative achievements of the 1938 Congressional session was the introduction, on April 27, of S. 3912, the Veterans of Foreign Wars bill to de-profitize war. This important measure was authored by twenty-seven Senators—a larger number than ever had sponsored any other legislative proposal in the Senate, with the single exception of the Cancer Clinic bill of 1937.

To those who have watched and studied the growth and development of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States since those historic beginnings of 1899 and the early 1900's, the future of the Veterans of Foreign Wars looms as brilliant and successful as its past. The same motives to which the organization has been dedicated throughout its history—patriotic service in peace as well as in war, the care of "him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans," the development of "a better America for Americans and of better Americans for America"—would seem to assure a future in which the Cross of Malta, emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will continue to serve as a guiding star along the pathway of achievement.

OUR "CHILDREN'S VILLAGE"

In 1925, the spirit of comradeship conceived a great and practical idea. It was that the children of deceased or disabled Veterans should be protected, trained and developed for the battle of life. From an idea emerged the practical and soundly established Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich

There, children have been saved from actual want—made to feel that their heritage as children of Veterans is an enviable one. They have been trained in the practical things of life, have been taught to earn, and have learned their invaluable first lessons in good citizenship.

Widows and children of Veterans have found, to their intense relief, that they had not been forgotten—and the gratitude they have shown for their protection and instruction is reward enough for the founders of the home.

Mothers and children, brothers and sisters, have remained united when cared for by the National Home. That is a basic principle that will never be violated. Its results have been the building of self respect, independence and an enduring pride in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Within fourteen years a modern and beautiful "Children's Village" has been built at Eaton Rapids. Nineteen modern brick homes (termed cottages to differentiate from the dormitory plan of housing), the director's cottage, the original homestead, repaired and modernized, the Ladies Auxiliary Hospital, the new Community Center, an office building, a warehouse, garage, laundry and miscellaneous other buildings constitute the "Village."

Thoroughly modern and sanitary water supply and sewerage systems are installed, as well as an irrigation system for vegetable and berry gardens, and an electric power plant completes the equipment necessary for comfort, health and all together normal living in this modern age.

LIFE AT THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL HOME, EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

MEMORIAL ORCHARD—ALL TUCKED IN—PLAYTIME INDOORS—PLAYTIME OUTDOORS—THE SCHOOL BUS—"HOUSE MOTHER" AND HER "FAMILY."

The cottages are built either by the state Departments or by the Board of Trustees of the National Home, and all units are constructed to conform to the general design of architecture approved by the Home Board. Furnishings are modest, yet comfortable and tasteful. Michigan has three cottages, Pennsylvania two, New York two, California-Nevada one, and New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Washington, Missouri, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia, Wisconsin one each. Enhancing the architectural ensemble are improved drives, lawns, shrubbery and flowers.

We can take especial pride in the fact that the hospital was financed by the Ladies Auxiliary at a cost of approximately $35,000. A registered nurse is in charge on full time. Medical and surgical care is furnished by outside physicians. Dental care is also given in the complete, modern dental clinic.

Since the purchase of the original 472 acres, 208 adjoining acres have been acquired by purchase. A thirty-acre apple orchard is known as the "Memorial Orchard," where a plate dedicated to the memory of a soldier, sailor or marine who lost his life in the service of his country in any of America's foreign wars, is affixed when a given tree is "purchased" by a Post, Auxiliary or individual.

Two of the Memorial Orchard trees have been dedicated to Past Presidents who have preceded us to their final reward, Mother Hutcheson and Sadie Kern.

A poultry farm is being operated at a profit, and eggs not consumed at the home are marketed in Lansing, Michigan, eighteen miles distant. A modern piggery for disposal of the home garbage is maintained, as is a truck garden furnishing vegetables and small fruits. A farm manager supervises the farming activities and an expert herdsman has charge of the fine dairy herd. The cattle are registered stock, a gift from the Department of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There are several playgrounds, a baseball diamond and a

football field. As this book was being written the beautiful new Community Center, with Cootie Field adjoining, was completed, and is illustrated elsewhere in these pages. Picnic grounds, beautifully and healthfully located on the bank of the Grand River are equipped with tables and Dutch ovens.

The children at the home in June, 1939, numbered over 200 and the mothers 14, having expanded from one family of seven in 1925. The cottages accommodate from eight to ten children and a "house mother;" the children ranging in age from babies to young people of high school age, and wherever possible, they are assigned to their own state unit. The house-mother takes charge of this "family" and directs its activities just as any mother would do in her own home. The family attitude, the brother and sister attitude, is cultivated in the training and supervision.

Institutional routine is avoided as much as possible, and all children are taught to work. Exclusive of the tiny tots, they help with all the work in and around the cottages. The older boys help with the gardens and some of the farm work. The older girls work at times in the laundry and in the office. Time is given for outdoor play, which is supervised by trained playground instructors. Over all is the constant, painstaking and sympathetic personal supervision of the director of the home, who has been in charge for the past twelve years.

Education is provided in the public schools of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, accredited with the highest rating in the state. It is the conviction of the officials of the Home that contact with public school children and teachers better prepares them for normal life in after-school years.

After graduation from high school, the children are given the opportunity for further training wherever advisable, in a vocation or profession of their own choosing. Only when they have reached the age where they can provide for themselves are they returned to the custody of a legal guardian, surviving parent or near-

est relative. They are not legally adopted by the home or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Adoption by strangers is never considered. However, when circumstances permit, a parent or relative may withdraw a child from the home.

Religious education is fostered by the home officials, but their policies are strictly non-sectarian. Every child old enough to attend church services is given the opportunity to affiliate with the church of his people; and he is encouraged to attend Sunday School, church services, or bible study classes as he desires.

Clothing is provided under the personal supervision of the director, and there are no uniforms. Individual tastes are observed, also suitability of style and color so that all the children are attractively and comfortably dressed and are not made conspicuous by uniforms. Materials and articles of clothing are secured from manufacturers at minimum cost.

Special treats are given the children on holidays and birthdays, such as parties, turkey and chicken dinners, birthday cakes, and always a Christmas tree with individual gifts for each child. The director, guided by the expressed wishes of the children, devotes personal attention to the purchasing of Christmas gifts.

The sources of income for the Home are several. Perhaps foremost is the percentage allocated from the receipts of the nation-wide Buddy Poppy sale each year. One cent from each "Buddy" poppy sold anywhere is diverted to the support of the National Home. Life memberships in the Home are issued to members of the organization and to Posts and Auxiliaries upon receipt of a contribution of $10.00, and Endowment Fund Certificates are issued upon receipt of $100.00.

The governing body of the Home is a Board of Trustees, consisting of nine members, with the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary as ex-officio members.

This great institution has become recognized throughout the

country as one of the most successful undertakings in child welfare ever attempted. The children and the mothers live in as nearly a normal atmosphere as can be created outside one's own home. No gongs call them to their tasks. No uniforms destroy their individuality. No somberness is shed about them. Of course, there is discipline, and there must be daily schedule, but these are no more restricting to personalities than with any well-regulated American family.

The children's need for work is answered by application to suitable tasks and responsibility is developed by putting them "on their own" in regard to many assigned duties. Their natural urge for play is satisfied under careful, yet wise supervision. They are offered religious, social, moral, academic, vocational and professional training. In short, they have every opportunity to develop into what they deserve to be—happy, useful, patriotic citizens.

Any history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home would be incomplete without a tribute to the memory of Past Commander-in-Chief Albert J. Rabing of New York. It was he who conceived the idea which is the very foundation of the Home. He was its First President, and he worked unceasingly, until his death in 1927, toward the realization of his ideal.

If he is now looking down on the handiwork for which he is so largely responsible, how happy he must be with the wonderful progress that has been made along the very lines he laid down. As his gaze rests upon New York Cottage Number One, he will read his tribute cast in a plaque of eternal bronze:

RABING MEMORIAL

DEDICATED

NOVEMBER 26, 1927

ERECTED BY

DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

HOSPITAL GIFT OF LADIES AUXILIARY

Inspired by the spirit of the Good Samaritan, and ever mindful of the care of our children at the National Home, our National Auxiliary determined that there should be a hospital right on the grounds, where prompt aid and the tenderest of ministration would be available.

Anticipation became realization, when, on Sunday, August 3d, 1930, was laid the cornerstone of what today stands a monument to the generosity and sacrifice of all those of our members who contributed their time, thought and energy, as well as their money. Fitting dedicatory services accompanied the ceremony.

An impressive and affecting scene was the raising of the American flag that had covered the body of the first American lad to be returned from the battlefields of France.

The National Home Fund Chairman conducted the opening ceremonies and cordially welcomed the many hundreds of guests. National Chaplain Reverend Wallace Hayes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars delivered the invocation, following which our National President Bessie Hanken was introduced to the assemblage. She, in turn, introduced our First National President Margaret Armstrong, who presided throughout the balance of the program.

Most appropriately, the placing of the cornerstone was intrusted to the guiding hands of our First National President.

If, and when, the cornerstone is ever opened far in the future, there will be found mementos from many people prominent in various walks of life, including a coin, the gift of President Herbert Hoover.

Past National President Florence E. Stark made the dedicatory address.

Comrade Fred Stover, President of the Board of Trustees of the National Home, spoke in behalf of that group. Commander-in-

HOSPITAL ERECTED AT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL HOME BY LADIES AUXILIARY. CORNERSTONE LAID AUGUST 3d, 1930.

UPPER LEFT—A THOROUGH EXAMINATION. *RIGHT*—THE BEST OF DENTAL CARE.

Chief Hezekiah N. Duff, speaking for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, delivered an appropriate address and thanked the Ladies for their magnanimity in contributing to the National Home such a valuable adjunct as a building for safeguarding the health of the children.

The Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Band furnished a fitting musical background for the ceremonies.

Every member of our National Organization should be proud of the fact that every cent of the $35,000.00 devoted to the erection of the hospital was contributed by the Ladies.

The hospital was formally presented to the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the National Encampment at Baltimore, Maryland, by the entire delegation of the Ladies Auxiliary, led by our National President.

CEREMONIES FOR DEAD OF THE ILL-FATED "POLAR BEAR" EXPEDITION, HOBOKEN, N. J., DECEMBER 28, 1929. NATIONAL PRESIDENT BESSIE HANKEN IN UPPER LEFT INSET

ABOVE—TRIBUTE TO "POLAR BEAR" DEAD AT STATION IN PARIS, FRANCE.

RIGHT—PROCESSION OF BODIES FROM STATION AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, TO CITY HALL FOR FINAL CEREMONIES.

"POLAR BEAR" DEAD HONORED AND WELCOMED HOME

Unique in all American history, as well as the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary, was the mission to Northern Russia under the auspices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and in cooperation with the United States Government, the initiative having been taken by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The so-called "Polar Bear Expedition" was sent into Northern Russia in 1918-19 during the revolutionary days that preceded the establishing of the present Soviet Government. Of the 120 or more who lost their lives, most of the bodies were buried in unrecorded and unkept graves in that frigid land. They had been there ten long years, when plans were completed and representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in behalf of the Polar Bear Association, embarked on their solemn pilgrimage for the purpose of locating, exhuming and transporting home the casualties of the "Polar Bear" expedition.

The patient work of months, through untold hardships, rewarded the mission when they discovered the resting places of 86 of their comrades, tenderly exhumed what remained of their bodies, uniforms and insignia, prepared them for return to their homeland, and nobly fulfilled the task entrusted to them when they brought 78 of those heroic dead to dockside at Hoboken, New Jersey, on the Steamship Roosevelt.

Fitting the occasion, the morning of December 28th, 1929, dawned bitter cold, and it was snowing when National President Bessie Hanken, National Senior Vice-President Ada E. Harrison and National Junior Vice-President Dora E. Raffensperger of the Ladies Auxiliary, left their hotel at 4 A. M. to join Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah N. Duff and representatives of city, state and national governments.

LADIES AUXILIARY TRIBUTE TO THE "POLAR BEAR" DEAD, HOBOKEN, N. J., DECEMBER 28, 1929.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT BESSIE HANKEN (right) AND NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT ADA E. HARRISON, KNEELING BESIDE, AND PLACING WREATH AT CASKET.

The receiving party boarded the New York City official welcoming tug, Macon, which took them to quarantine, where they stepped on the deck of the Steamship Roosevelt to reverently and officially welcome home the noble dead of the Polar Bear Expedition. And, while a deeply touching occasion, one could not help feeling a thrill of pride at the thought that our own comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were responsible for the return of those 78 remains to their native soil.

The bodies, transferred to the pier at Hoboken, New Jersey, amid a profusion of American flags, a solemn memorial service was conducted by the National Officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Ladies Auxiliary, following which the caskets were placed aboard a special train to be borne to their last resting places, most of which are in the State of Michigan.

The bodies were accompanied by the National President, the National Senior Vice-President and the National Junior Vice-President on the funeral train, the passage of which through New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio occasioned one of the most sincere and solemn tributes in the history of our country. At station after station, our comrades and our Auxiliary members waited hours, at all times of the day and night, in bitter cold and snow, to bow in silence as the train passed; to sound taps, while dirges were played and bells were tolled.

On thousands of business houses, factories, schools and homes flags were flown at half staff as the cortege passed, and when Detroit was reached, Commander-in-Chief Duff officially conveyed the bodies to the State of Michigan tersely and expressively, in these memorable words—

"The Polar Bears are home!"

TOP LEFT—ARRIVAL AT HONOLULU ABOARD S.S. LURLINE, MET AT QUARANTINE BY COMMITTEE. *MIDDLE LEFT*—FAREWELL DINNER, WITH GOVERNOR POINDEXTER AND DAUGHTER AT MRS. TOUSSAINT'S RIGHT. *LOWER LEFT*—GRASS HUT AT HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, AT NIGHT. MRS. TOUSSAINT STRUMMING UKULELE.
MIDDLE—MRS. TOUSSAINT ARRIVES COVERED WITH LEIS. BELOW, THE HAWAIIAN EXPRESSION FOR "GREETING," "LOVING REMEMBRANCE" AND "FAREWELL."
UPPER RIGHT—PREPARING THE LEUI DINNER. *MIDDLE RIGHT*—VISITING GRASS HUT FOR TEA ON HAWAII. *LOWER RIGHT*—AFTER LANDING ON HAWAII. GREETINGS COMMITTEE REPRESENTING LOCAL AUXILIARIES.

A TRIBUTE TO HAWAII

When, in 1936, our National Organization decided that the work of our Auxiliaries in Hawaii was worthy of exceptional recognition, it felt that the most fitting and the highest tribute it could pay would be to delegate our then National President, Winifred D. Toussaint, to make an official visit to the islands.

Ambassador of good will and good wishes, the National President embarked from San Pedro, California, May 9th, 1936, the first National Officer to pay an official visit to the land of leis and "Aloha."

The story of Sister Toussaint's Hawaiian experience is most charmingly told in her own words:

"As travel broadens one educationally, so my official visit to Hawaii in 1936, while National President, gave me an impression of the magnitude and diversity of our far flung organization which I never before had enjoyed. Furthermore, I was stirred with the thought that, 'way out there, three thousand five hundred miles from Headquarters, there prevailed as high a degree of devotion, loyalty, enthusiasm and service as could be found in any one of our two thousand three hundred and thirty-four Auxiliaries.

"The splendid record of our Hawaiian Auxiliaries is illustrated in their growth from 1933, when Honolulu Auxiliary No. 1540 and Commander John Rodgers Auxiliary No. 2432 were organized, up to the occasion of my visit in May, 1936. The two Auxiliaries started with a membership of thirty-four, which was built up to one hundred in three short years, when a third Auxiliary was established, the Ladies Auxiliary to William H. Kenyon Post No. 2875.

"It was in recognition of such achievements at our farthest flung outpost that Headquarters, for the first time in our history, sent a National Officer on an official visit to the 'Paradise of the

Pacific.' For the privilege and honor thus bestowed on me, I shall ever be grateful, and for the broadening aspect of our service thus obtained, I shall ever remain indebted to our National Auxiliary.

"Should I live to be a hundred, I shall never forget May 9th, 1936, for it was on that day I sailed from San Pedro, for the enchanted isles of the Pacific. My stateroom was a veritable bower of blooms, a sample of California herself, amply accompanied by candy and fruits so graciously and generously presented by our California sisters.

"On the morning of May 14th I was in a half-dream. Before my eyes was Honolulu. Here I was, actually in the almost legendary land of Hawaii. And now I was to experience the thrill of a real Hawaiian greeting. I assure you I was far from disappointed.

"An official launch took me ashore, with my escort, led by the National Deputy Chief of Staff. Each member of the receiving party dropped a lei about my shoulders, and thus arrayed, I prepared to set foot on the magic isle.

"As we approached, the Royal Hawaiian Band and singers greeted us with native music, and as we docked, about fifty members of four Posts and three Auxiliaries, each with a lei, completely surrounded me. I was fairly speechless with emotion. Never had I experienced a more heart-warming welcome.

"Following a brief relaxation in a beautiful suite of the Moana Seaside Hotel at Waikiki Beach, a constant round of visiting and entertaining began with a delightful luncheon at the Young Hotel.

"Dinners and teas, at which Chinese, Japanese and Hawaiian dishes were served followed each other in rapid succession, but there was a serious side too. Jointly and separately, I met with Honolulu Auxiliary No. 1540, Commander John Rodgers Ship Auxiliary No. 2432, William H. Kenyon Auxiliary No. 2875. And, on Wednesday, May 20th, I was privileged to institute an Auxiliary to General Antonio Luna Post No. 2915, whose membership is composed

entirely of Filipinos. That occasion made the Hawaiian Islands one hundred percent in Auxiliaries.

"As the day of my departure approached, it was with a feeling of sadness that I realized I must leave this beautiful spot and say goodbye to the many sisters, comrades, and friends I had made. At 4 P. M., May 22d, I sailed from Honolulu laden with leis, but, most of all, I carried with me a deeper understanding of those smiling friends, who stood bidding me 'Aloha' through a mist of tears.

"Refreshed, invigorated and inspired, I returned to my duties on the mainland prepared to impart the spirit of Hawaii whenever and wherever it might be needed."

Thus was the bond between the mainland and our exotic island possessions drawn closer, and thus were the splendid Auxiliaries of the land of the lei made to feel that they were an important integral part of our great nation-wide organization.

AUXILIARY SPONSORS DUAL FRANCO-AMERICAN CELEBRATION

Nineteen-thirty-six was an epochal year in historical celebrations, jointly by the two great republics, France and America. It was the fiftieth anniversary year of the Statue of Liberty and the 147th year of French liberty.

GREAT FRENCH FLAGSHIP NORMANDIE PASSING STATUE OF LIBERTY, JULY 13, 1936.

ALBUM OF BARTHOLDI MEMENTOS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM KEEPING OF CAPTAIN RENE PUGNET OF THE NORMANDIE TO CARE OF MAURICE G. ROUX, PRESIDENT FEDERATION OF FRENCH VETERANS OF THE GREAT WAR. EXTREME LEFT, NATIONAL PRESIDENT WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT, AND AT HER RIGHT, SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SCOTT P. SQUYRES

Since the French people had presented the Statue of Liberty to the people of the United States, in recognition of our struggle for independence and their sympathy with our ideographic ideals, it was fitting that we should recognize *their* triumph over tyranny.

With the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars once more taking the initiative, a dual celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Statue of Liberty and Bastile Day (France's "Fourth of July") was organized and conducted by our National Auxiliary, in conjunction with the National Park Service and representatives of various French organizations.

On July 13th a party of 150, invited by our National Aux-

iliary, were conveyed in United States Coast Guard Cutters down New York Harbor and boarded the French liner Normandie at Quarantine, where they were guests of the French Line in the main dining room of the pride of France's merchant marine. As the great steamer passed the Statue of Liberty, Captain René Pugnet, of the Normandie, presented to Maurice G. Roux, President of the Federation of French Veterans of the Great War, a selection from the permanent Bartholdi exhibit in Colmar, Alsace, the birthplace of the famous sculptor of the Statue of Liberty. Incidentally, Captain Pugnet is a nephew of Fréderic Auguste Bartholdi.

The following day, July 14th, Bastile Day, officers of the Normandie and representatives of various French organizations

MAURICE G. ROUX PRESENTING TO NATIONAL PRESIDENT WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT BARTHOLDI MEMENTOS. IN TURN, MRS. TOUSSAINT DELIVERED THEM INTO CUSTODY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

joined representatives of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars on a trip to the Statue of Liberty, where another ceremony took place, when Maurice Roux presented the Bartholdi mementos to our National President Winifred D. Toussaint. She, in turn, gave into the custody of the National Park Service the precious Bartholdiana for display at Bedloe Island in connection with the fiftieth anniversary observance of France's great gift to America.

For the two-day celebration, Miss Liberty was bedecked with American and French flags, the first time in the fifty years of her life that any colors, other than those of the United States, had been flown there.

WE HONOR MISS LIBERTY

October 28th, 1936, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in cooperation with the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, reminded our country that Miss Liberty (popularly known as the Statue of Liberty, in New York Harbor) has birthdays, just like the rest of us. But, unlike most humans, she isn't a bit self-conscious about their number. In fact, she is proud of her years, for, with their passing, and particularly in the days when these lines are being written, she becomes more and more *the* symbol of freedom in a world of thralldom.

That reminder took the form of a golden jubilee celebration on Bedloe Island, in the shadow of Liberty herself, in honor of her fiftieth birthday, for there she had stood half a century bidding welcome and inspiring new hope in millions from across the seas that sought refuge, opportunity and LIBERTY under her aegis.

A most happy conclusion to the ceremonies of the day was the official fiftieth anniversary banquet, in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, the evening of October 28th, attended by notables of national and international renown.

On Past National President Winifred D. Toussaint, was bestowed the honor of Chairman of the Ladies Banquet Committee.

Liberty's fiftieth birthday celebration was an auspicious occasion, with national, state and city governments represented by their highest dignitaries—the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt; The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman, Governor of the State of New York; his Honor, the Mayor of the City of New York, Fiorello H. La Guardia, Chairman of the proceedings, and a host of other distinguished guests.

One of the highlights of the celebration, so far as our Aux-

PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION OF STATE FLAGS, STATUE OF LIBERTY, OCTOBER 28, 1937.

iliary was concerned was the presentation of the award to the winner of the National Statue of Liberty Essay Contest, Miss Edna Falk of Pueblo, Colorado. Miss Falk was also presented with a certificate entitling her to a trip to France, an honor bestowed by the Federation of French Veterans of the Great War.

Beverly Jane Rank of Salt Lake City, Utah, won second prize, and Frances Ross, Cheyenne, Wyoming, was winner of third prize.

Miss Falk's inspiring essay is worthy of preservation here as a stimulus to straight thinking on the part of every true American—

WHAT THE STATUE OF LIBERTY MEANS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDNA FALK

"A hush fell over the darkened theater, and across the screen a great steamer plowed the foaming waves, and then in the misty distance could be seen the heroic figure of a woman holding aloft a great torch, a figure symbolizing Liberty, America, and Home. Down from the youngest child to the oldest person in the audience, each naturally, unthinkingly knew that this figure meant America, just as they had known that in the last scene the fading shot of the Eiffel tower had symbolized France. Can you remember the first time you knew that the Statue of Liberty was ours and symbolized our country? Neither can I; it is just as natural to recognize this statue as it is to recognize our own flag.

"This is the great woman that represents the vast American

people, the hand that holds up the torch of liberty and opportunity to anyone who wishes to grasp it. The rays of her crown point out in as many different ways as there are different peoples here, but all the rays come together in a great coronet for Liberty's magnificent head. Clasped in her other hand, as one of Liberty's dearest possessions, is a book—the symbol of education; by this only can Liberty hope to live.

"So she stands, the symbol of the very basis of America, Liberty; and liberty is just as much a part of America's life today as it was when the first seekers after it came to these shores. This is true despite the pessimists who wag their heads and say that Liberty has fled, or the short-sighted, petulant demagogues who also loudly declare that she is gone. But Liberty is here and will always be here as long as America is America and education and true ideals continue.

"Despite what a politically-minded American says or thinks about our present liberty, nearly every one feels a certain glow of pride in his own country when he picks up the newspaper and reads of dictatorships, revolutions, and oppression in other lands. True, there are sweatshops, unequal opportunities, injustice here, but it lies within our power to correct these things if we only will.

"It remains, despite temporary conditions, that of all countries America is the land of opportunity for those who will give their loyalty and their best service to God and man. There is nearly always a reward for the one who is willing to put as much in as he takes out. True, there is the man who has failed to succeed, but he would have failed anywhere, and certainly there are more chances to succeed in America than in any other country. Although he may be very poor, he still is free to worship as he pleases, to say and do what he thinks right as long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others, and this is true liberty.

"The only way to make sure that liberty will continue will be by education. Oppression and education cannot dwell side by

side. As long as there are schools so one may study the ideals of the first American statesmen, the growth of the English government, the French revolution, or other instances in history alone, can he stand back without a protest and watch that which has always been the aspiration of many nations crumble? So you see Liberty has good reason to hold education close to her.

"Indeed, Liberty could hardly be depicted more fittingly than in this figure planned by Frederic Bartholdi, who ironically enough was denied liberty to live in his own home in Alsace; and the statue could have commemorated no better date than America's greatest birthday, the centennial of the Declaration of Independence. After some time necessary for France to get the plan of presenting this statue under way, and after making, shipping, and assembling the huge parts, at last on Bedloe Island there stood the gigantic Statue of Liberty!

"So she stands today, her great calm metal face looking out across the sea into a new, a golden dawn. There she is, a symbol of Home to each returning traveller, as she holds up her great torch to enlighten the entire world, but with her feet planted firmly upon an American pedestal."

EDNA FALK

Statue though she be, Miss Liberty has certain humanlike feminine traits. Knowing this, and that she likes to "fuss up" from time to time, it was decided that her fifty-first birthday gift from our National Auxiliary would be a set of the forty-eight state flags. Miss Liberty could then deck herself out most fittingly on holidays and other festive occasions.

So, October 28th, 1937, saw another impressive ceremony at the base of Bartholdi's masterpiece. Gathered there were five hundred devoted Americans, among whom was our Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres and representatives from twenty-five women's patriotic organizations.

Brigadier General Bernard W. Kearney, representing Governor Lehman of New York, was master of ceremonies.

In that capacity, Comrade Kearney introduced National President Laurie Schertle, who read President Roosevelt's Constitution Proclamation.

Bedloe Island, on which the Statue of Liberty stands, has changed hands three times since the white man came. A picturesque portrayal of its history was graphically impressed on the assembled patriots by a review of representatives of the various racial groups in whose possession the island had been since pre-colonial days.

First came a Cherokee Indian family in full native regalia, led by their Rhode Island born Chief, Rising Sun, bearing himself with the traditional dignity of his race. A representative of the New Amsterdam Society followed, saluting with the flag of the Netherlands, the first country to fly its national emblem on Bedloe Island. Next came the British Great War Veterans of America, carrying the flag of Great Britain, the second white nation to control the island. Then, in recognition of the Statue as a gift from the people of France to America, representatives of the Federation of French Veterans of the Great War swept by with the French National Emblem.

The state flags were introduced and carried past the reviewing stand in the order in which each respective state ratified the Constitution. As each flag passed in review Brigadier-General Kearney read the message from the governor of that state. In some cases the governor's personal representative delivered the greeting.

Telegrams of felicitations were received from the chief executives of 12 states as follows: Governor Teller Ammons, Colorado; Governor Fred P. Cone, Florida; Governor Henry Horner, Illinois; Governor R. W. Leche, Louisiana; Governor Frank Murphy, Michigan; Governor Elmer A. Benson, Minnesota; Governor Richard Kirman, Nevada; Governor Clyde Tingley, New

Mexico; Governor Martin L. Davey, Ohio; Governor Olin D. Johnston, South Carolina; Governor James V. Allred, Texas; Governor Homer A. Holt, West Virginia; and letters were received from 19, as follows: Governor Carl E. Bailey, Arkansas; Governor Richard C. McMullen's Secretary, Delaware; Governor E. D. Rivers, Georgia; Governor Barzilla W. Clark, Idaho; Governor Harry W. Nice, Maryland; Governor Hugh White, Mississippi; Governor Roy E. Ayers, Montana; Governor Harold Hoffman, New Jersey; Walter T. Brown, Secretary to Governor Herbert H. Lehman, New York; Governor Clyde R. Hoey, North Carolina; Governor William Langer, North Dakota; Governor Charles H. Martin, Oregon; Governor Robert E. Quinn, Rhode Island; Governor Leslie Jensen, South Dakota; Governor Gordon Browning, Tennessee; Governor George D. Aiken, Vermont; Governor George C. Peery, Virginia; Governor Philip F. LaFollette, Wisconsin; Governor Nelson G. Kraschel, Iowa.

The flags were then presented to the Statue in behalf of the Auxiliary and accepted in the name of the National Park Service by Mr. Elbert Cox, coordinating Superintendent of the North Eastern National Park Area, and Superintendent of the Morristown (New Jersey) National Historical Park.

It is safe to say that few of us would recognize our own state flag if we saw it without the name of the state. However, it is thrilling to know that *your* state is permanently represented at the nation's shrine of liberty, its emblem bearing testimony to its undying loyalty to democratic institutions.

Our 1938 party was one to delight the heart of any small boy; any big one, too. The piece de resistance was a monster birthday cake, made in three sections, weighing 150 pounds, and richly encased in red, white and blue icing. Surmounted by a miniature Statue of Liberty, and fifty-two silver candles, the cake was a consummate work of art, as the accompanying illustration readily demonstrates. The fifty-two candles represented the forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Alaska and the Canal Zone.

STATUE OF LIBERTY'S 52d BIRTHDAY CAKE, IN THREE SECTIONS, WEIGHING 150 POUNDS, WITH RED, WHITE AND BLUE ICING. NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT IDA S. COHEN WIELDING KNIFE. OCTOBER 28, 1938.

After the ceremonies, coffee was served and each guest sampled the giant bit of confection. The remainder was sent to local Veterans' hospitals.

Since Miss Liberty could not very well participate in the consumption of cake and coffee, she was presented with a magnificent silk American flag, through the Department of the Interior as proxy, who accepted the national emblem as a token of love from our National Auxiliary.

Each candle, inscribed with the name of the respective states and possessions, was sent to the fifty-two Department heads to be used in local Silver Jubilee affairs.

Through the efforts of our National Auxiliary, the annual birthday party at the foot of our great symbol of free thought and free speech is an established institution, and it is more than homage to a statue, noble and inspiring as Liberty undoubtedly is. It is an acknowledgment of indebtedness to the undying spirits of those who fought for and established this "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave."

AUXILIARY HONORED BY WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE

In 1937, recognition of our eminent position among the national women's organizations of America was accorded the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States by the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense. At their twelfth conference, which took place that year, the thirty-nine national organizations comprising the Conference voted to bestow the coveted honor of the chairmanship on our National Body.

It was the first time such recognition had come to us, and, with a particular feeling of pride, National President Laurie Schertle appointed Past National Presidents Gladys Mooney, Winifred D. Toussaint, and Bessie Hanken, National Senior Vice-President Anna Mae Lochner and National Secretary-Treasurer Grace H. Davis as the committee to arrange for the annual Conference, which was held January 25, 26 and 27, 1938, at the Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C., the thirteenth in the history of that great organization of earnest, patriotic American women. Gladys Mooney was appointed Presiding Chairman by National President Laurie Schertle.

Early in the opening ceremonies the spirit of our Auxiliary and the graciousness of our National President Laurie Schertle was prominently in evidence when she presented the honorary permanent chairman of the Conference, Mrs. O. D. Oliphant, with an exquisite gold badge.

The thirteenth annual assemblage of the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense was a "meeting of minds," tuned to a harmony of thought—a symposium on the theme, "For an Enduring America."

Not the least of our accomplishments was the success with which we were able to bring together a formidable group of dis-

tinguished speakers and guests, among whom were our own Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres; Colonel Alva J. Brasted, Chief Chaplain, United States Army; Major General James C. Breckinridge; Mr. Raymond Leslie Buell, President, Foreign Policy Association; Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, Directing Editor, "The Religious News Service;" Captain Reuben B. Coffey, Office Naval Operations; Dr. W. F. Draper, United States Assistant Surgeon General; Professor Charles L. Durham, Cornell University; Mr. Robert Fechner, Director, Civilian Conservation Corps; Hon. James W. Gerard, Former Ambassador to Germany; Colonel Edmund L. Gruber, General Staff Corps; Brigadier General Bernard W. Kearney, Commanding, 53rd Brigade, New York National Guard; Mr. Austin H. MacCormick, Commissioner of Correction of the City of New York; Mr. Brien McMahon, Assistant United States Attorney General; Colonel Sherman Miles, General Staff Corps; Commander Robert P. Molten, United States Navy; Mr. James Harvey Rogers, Professor of Political Economy, Yale University; Mr. John W. Studebaker, United States Commissioner of Education; Major General Oscar Westover; Captain Robert D. Workman, Chief Chaplain, United States Navy, and Mr. Kimball Young, Professor of Social Psychology, University of Wisconsin.

That our organization acquitted itself in most commendable terms and fully justified the confidence reposed in it by entrusting it with the Chairmanship, was amply demonstrated by the manner in which the sessions were conducted and the impression left with all who attended.

Prior to the Official Opening of the Conference, our National President entertained the National Presidents of the various other participating organizations at a luncheon in the Presidential Dining Room of the Hotel Mayflower. Following the luncheon, limousines bore those attending on the annual pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where an impressive ceremony was conducted. There, tribute was paid at the shrine of one who represents

America's heroic manhood—those who offered their all in defense of enduring American principles.

Our Auxiliary deepened the favorable impression it had already created, when, on the return from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a tea was served to the entire delegation at the conference, and the Past National Presidents of our National Auxiliary acted as hostesses.

Officially the conference was opened with a most affecting processional of the colors, symbolizing those sacred institutions the defense of which we were met to consider.

At the various sessions inspiring music was furnished by the United States Army Band, the United States Navy Band, and the United States Marine Band.

The evening of January 26th was a gala occasion, with over a thousand guests attending the reception and banquet in the Presidential Dining Room and the ballroom of the Mayflower. There, as concrete evidence of the respect and appreciation of the conference for the manner in which our organization conducted the sessions, and as fitting recognition of the graciousness of our National President and her sister delegates from the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the heads of the other participating organizations presented National President Laurie Schertle with a beautiful remembrance.

Among the impressive speakers at the Conference were Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres whose address was "Better Americans for America;" Past Commander-in-Chief Brigadier-General Bernard W. Kearney, who, with characteristic vigor, stressed the National Guard as a vitally important branch of our national defense; and the Honorable James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, who expounded "The American Philosophy of Government."

We, and our parent organization, were to the fore at almost

every stage of the proceedings, leaving no doubt in the minds of all other organizations represented that the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and their comrades, constitute an indispensable force for patriotism and enduring Americanism.

Coincident to the sessions of the Women's Patriotic Conference, hearings were being conducted before the House Pensions Committee on several bills favorable to veterans pensions. Among these was the bill sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, officially known as H.R. 9285, and providing for pensions to widows and orphans of all deceased World War veterans.

Thus, it was the good fortune of those attending the Conference to be present in Washington at such an opportune time to lend their weight in favor of constructive legislation, and to be in a position to make such a formidable and representative impression. And, it was their further good fortune that arrangements were made whereby they could attend in a body and plead for the passing of H.R. 9285.

Hearings on the bill, previously designated at H.R. 8690, were held January 25th, 1938, when nearly a hundred members of our National Auxiliary appeared in its support. Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres presented convincing testimony in behalf of the bill, assisted by Mrs. Winifred D. Toussaint, National Legislative Chairman; Mrs. Laurie Schertle, National President; Mrs. Anna Mae Lochner, Senior Vice President; Mrs. Ida S. Cohen, Junior Vice President; Miss Leeones Barnette, Spanish-American War Nurse, and Mrs. Nan Carroll, Department President of Missouri.

While the immediate results were not wholly satisfactory, a step in the right direction was made by means of a compromise bill, which our determined delegation vowed to make a stepping stone toward legislation that would meet our just demands for those fully deserving of government support.

Aside from the results of their efforts, our ladies had the

distinction of being the first committee composed of women to appear and present testimony on World War legislation.

That we were a force to be reckoned with in national affairs, especially as they affect the Veteran, was clearly established by our reception and recognition at sessions on H.R. 9285 in the nation's capital, January, 1938.

"KEEP AMERICA OUT OF WAR" CAMPAIGN

Americanization Day, April 27th, 1938, was a day of which our organization, in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is justifiably proud. It goes down in history as one of the high water marks of the first twenty-five years of the Ladies Auxiliary.

"Peace through preparedness" was the theme of the campaign which culminated on that day, when thousands of "Peace-for-America" petitions were presented direct to our national congressional leaders by a Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary delegation representing every state in the United States. The petitions bore the signatures of nearly four million patriotic citizens who had responded to the drive to keep America out of foreign military entanglements which might readily lead us into a war in which we had no business to be.

On the other hand, those same patriots were fully cognizant of the fact that we could be most certain of maintaining peace for America only by building up an adequate defense against any possible aggression. They were not peace-at-any-pricers, advocating a disarmed supineness which would lead to the very situation they were trying to avoid. They knew that peace could be preserved only by having our armed forces prepared against any eventuality.

Before scores of Congress members, assembled on the Senate steps of the Capitol, the millions of signatures on the thousands of petitions were turned over to the members of Congress for their guidance and deliberation. All the signatures from each given state were packed in a box bearing the name of the state in large letters, as seen in the accompanying historic photograph.

Each Congress member present eagerly sought out the box containing the petitions from his state, and proudly displayed it to the assemblage.

CARTONS CONTAINING SIGNATURES OF NEARLY FOUR MILLION CITIZENS REQUESTING CONGRESS TO "KEEP AMERICA OUT OF WAR." TO LEFT, NATIONAL PRESIDENT LAURIE SCHERTLE. IN FRONT OF HER SENATOR PAT McCARRAN, NEVADA. TO HER LEFT, SENATOR KEY PITTMAN, NEVADA, SPEAKER WILLIAM BANKHEAD AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SCOTT P. SQUYRES.

Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt, Chairman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Committee, officiated as master of ceremonies. He introduced Commander-in-Chief Scott P. Squyres, who made the actual presentation, accompanied by an explanatory address, in which he said:

"In collecting these signatures, it was our purpose to supply Congress with tangible evidence of a tremendous public sentiment in favor of preparedness against war. Those who signed our petition have expressed their endorsement of neutrality policies supported by national defense principles.

"We bring to our leaders in Washington overwhelming evidence of wide-spread support of President Roosevelt's oft expressed desire for peace, and the policies which have been administered under his direction toward the objective of maintaining friendly relations with all nations and military alliances with none."

Commander-in-Chief Squyres further stressed various recommendations to the Congress which it was hoped the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary would see enacted into law. Among those were:

Continued endorsement of strict neutrality; enactment of legislation which will discourage the clamor for war from certain forces within our own country by the elimination of wartime profi-

Keep America Out of War

This "Peace-for-America" campaign is a mandate of the 1937 National Encampment of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. By signing this petition 25 million citizens will have the opportunity to tell members of Congress they want America to keep out of war.

This Petition Distributed by

(Name, Post Number and City of V. F. W. Unit or Name and Address of Sponsor Group)

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS of the United States of America, hereby call upon the Congress, and the President, to adopt and apply policies designed to keep America out of war and supported by a National Defense program adequate to preserve and protect our country and its people.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY AND STATE

REPRODUCTION OF THE ACTUAL PEACE PETITION.

teering; government control of the sale and manufacture of munitions, and the adoption of a "vigorous national defense program which will give the United States the necessary manpower and equipment to combat any single foe, or combination of foes; the upbuilding of the United States Navy to meet the five-five-three ratio of the Washington Treaty."

Heartily supporting all that our Commander-in-Chief had said, and speaking for the feminine side of the house, our own National President Laurie Schertle pointed out that "the women of this country are keenly aware of current international conditions and the overhanging threat of another World War."

Continuing, Sister Schertle sounded a warning to those who might discount the influence of women in the existing situation in these clear and unmistakable terms, ". . . . a moral uprising among the women of America, against wars for profit, is plainly in evidence, and their combined strength is a force to be reckoned with by those who would endanger our peaceful relations with other countries." Yet, they were not to be deluded by visionaries who will not face the facts, she pointed out, for, in her own words, the women of America "refuse to nurse false hope for a Utopian brotherhood, but they are convinced that this nation can continue to enjoy the blessings of peace if our leaders are so determined."

In behalf of Congress the petitions were accepted by Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, President *pro tem* of the Senate, and Representative William B. Bankhead of Alabama, Speaker of the House.

In an extemporaneous response, Speaker Bankhead praised the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary for their militant efforts to preserve American neutrality and eulogized the organization for "its unselfish sacrifices in behalf of a cause which brings the Veteran no particular personal reward but constitutes a real contribution to the welfare of America as a whole."

Immediately upon conclusion of the ceremonies, the Repre-

sentatives and Senators in attendance eagerly stepped forward to take possession of the petitions from their respective states. The collection of signatures was described as a remarkable exhibition of public interest and support.

On the following day the Congressional Record carried a complete account describing the ceremony, including campaign statistics which were sent in advance to all members of Congress, and the speeches delivered by those who participated in the presentation program.

In personal interviews, individual members of the House and Senate described the Veterans of Foreign Wars campaign to keep America out of war, during the several months preceding April 27th, 1938, as one of the most valuable educational movements of a patriotic nature ever conducted by a Veterans organization.

HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY AND WE RECIPROCATE HONORS

Through the graciousness and generosity of the great American painter, Howard Chandler Christy, the National Auxiliary was enabled to bestow on all state winners in the 1938 Americanism essay contest an honor which the boys and girls highly prized.

Mr. Christy autographed reproductions of his masterpiece, "The Signing of the Constitution," and presented them to our National Auxiliary. We, in turn, had the prints mounted on plaques and presented them to the state winners in "The Constitution of the United States and What it Means to the American People" contest in behalf of their schools, on the respective walls of which each plaque was hung, a constant reminder of what our constitution means to the youth of our land.

In appreciation of his magnanimity, National President Anna Mae Lochner and Past President Winifred D. Toussaint, made a formal call on Mr. Christy and presented him with a silver medal, much to the great artist's surprise and delight.

And right here, it would seem fitting that we include a description of the conception and execution of Mr. Christy's noted work, a reproduction of which appears on the page following.

The artist's conception for his painting was to combine the historical aspect of the Constitution with the symbolic. The historical aspect he has portrayed at the moment when the Constitution became a reality—he has caught the signers in the act of signing on September 17, 1787. The symbolic aspect has been achieved through the portrayal of figures representing the elements embodied in the preamble.

Like the framing of the Constitution itself, the work of painting was a matter of slow development in the maturing of the

REPRODUCTION OF HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY'S "SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION" PRESENTED TO STATE WINNERS IN "THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE" CONTEST, SPONSORED BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY. THE INSCRIPTION IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER READS,
"To the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—with the best regards of—HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY."

original conception. Long before Mr. Christy began the painting, he conceived the idea and made an elaborate study of many actual

figures and designs to be used. He visited Independence Hall in Philadelphia in September, near the 17th, and made a small preliminary painting of the room in which the Constitution was signed. This enabled him to know the room intimately, to catch its atmosphere, to learn the exact manner in which lights and shadows fall during the month of September so that he could reproduce them with fidelity. He had an opportunity to examine the chair which George Washington used as President of the Convention; the desks, the inkwells, and pieces of original furniture.

The next study was that of the signers themselves. The art-

NATIONAL PRESIDENT ANNA MAE LOCHNER AND PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT PRESENTING HOWARD CHANDLER CHRISTY WITH A SILVER MEDALLION IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS GIFT OF REPRODUCTIONS OF HIS GREAT PAINTING.

ist made a careful examination of the habiliments of the various signers. Then he studied the available portraits of each of the signers.

The historical part of the painting portrays the signing. Before a close examination is made, the most prominent of the signers press themselves into notice. Thus we are struck by the figures of Washington, Franklin, and Madison as the three outstanding. Then we see, but slightly less prominent, such figures as Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, Robert Morris, Wilson, and Clymer. Detailed examination reveals each one of the 38 signers who were present and in addition, William Jackson, the Secretary. On a dais are three figures: George Washington, Richard Dobbs Spaight, and William Blount. In the center foreground sits the sage of the Convention, Benjamin Franklin. The portrait of Franklin is declared by many critics to be the finest that has ever been painted. Dressed in the height of fashion, his 81 years carried lightly, he sits in grave dignity.

The man who justly is known as the Father of the Constitution, James Madison, is sitting in the left foreground, his head turned to catch a question being asked him by George Clymer. Gouverneur Morris, with his wooden leg, is seen standing behind Franklin, and Robert Morris, obviously the financier, is seated with the Pennslyvania delegation on the left. James Wilson is near him, in animated conversation.

One by one, each of the deputies can be studied, his clothing and expression and attitude all typifying what is known of these men who framed the Constitution of the United States of America.

SILVER JUBILEE DEDICATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER

A never-to-be-forgotten day in the history of our National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, was April 23d, 1939, when the Community Center Building was dedicated in the presence of National Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary and our parent organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, distinguished guests and thousands of visitors from many states.

Had the weather been made to order it could not have been more propitious, and everyone present felt that the springlike atmosphere betokened a bright and happy future and many long years of invaluable service for the splendid new addition to the Home, to dedicate which we had gathered at Eaton Rapids on the glorious day of April 23d, 1939.

Those of us who had taken actual part in the campaign for the erection of the Community Center, naturally had our hearts set on a large and enthusiastic attendance at the dedication, but the response was far beyond even our expectations.

By almost every means of conveyance, visitors from everywhere seemed to pour in by thousands. They came by car, train, plane, and bus. Whole delegations from some states came by organized motor caravans. They began to arrive as early as ten o'clock in the morning, and when two o'clock struck, the time for the ceremonies, the field set aside as a parking space was one mass of cars as far as the eye could see.

Thus, amid the beautiful setting on the banks of the Grand River, where nestles our National Home, five thousand guests and visitors strolled about the immaculately kept grounds, while, prior to the actual ceremonies, they were regaled with inspiring strains of music from several drum corps playing in various parts of the grounds. Among these was the drum and bugle corps of Acorn

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AT THE NATIONAL HOME, EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.
GIFT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY. DEDICATED APRIL 23d, 1939.

Post No. 1669, Royal Oak, Michigan, first place winners in the closed class contest for the National Championship title, at the Columbus, Ohio, National Encampment, 1938-1939. But champion or no champion, each drum corps present did itself proudly and was worthy of the great organization of which it was a part.

A special thrill was the playing of the Eaton Rapids High School Band, among whose members were several of our own children from the National Home, and their performance made our hearts swell with pride.

The informal preliminaries resolved themselves into the formal proceedings as Chairman Dora Raffensperger of the Community Center Committee opened the outdoor exercises and introduced Past National President Winifred D. Toussaint, who unveiled the cornerstone.

Enriching the depth of their royal blue, and adding luster to the gold, the brilliant sunshine of a perfect day made our Auxiliary colors seem even more lovely than ever. They fairly glowed as Mrs. Toussaint stepped forward, impressively drew their folds from the face of the cornerstone, and accompanied her act by appropriate and beautiful reference to the children of the Home as similes to the foundation of the Community Center itself, in that they, in their youth, are laying the foundations for the future security and integrity of our glorious democracy.

Past National President Bessie Hanken concluded the outdoor exercises with the unveiling prayer.

As the guests passed into the building for the indoor exercises, they registered in a special registration book provided for the occasion, and presided over by Past National President Ada E. Harrison. Each was presented with a silver key chain with medallion attached, on one side of which was a replica of the Community Center and the Auxiliary emblem, and on the reverse the inscription, "Erected by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Dedicated April 23d, 1939."

It was anticipated that the building would not hold the thousands of visitors and those in charge were prepared for such an eventuality. Guests and visitors filled the auditorium to capacity and overflowed to the playroom in the basement, until not another

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT UNVEILING CORNERSTONE, COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING, EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, APRIL 23, 1939. NATIONAL PRESIDENT ANNA MAE LOCHNER IN BACKGROUND.

DORA E. RAFFENSPERGER, BESSIE HANKEN, ANNA MAE LOCHNER AND GRACE H. DAVIS FLANKING MRS. TOUSSAINT AFTER UNVEILING.

person could be accommodated inside. For those in the basement, amplifiers were provided, and loud speakers were set up at strategic locations about the grounds for the hundreds of visitors enjoying the indoor ceremonies out of doors.

Almost at the last moment, our principal guest and speaker, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, was obliged to cancel the arrangements for her to make the dedicatory address because of a tragic death in her family.

The ceremonies in the auditorium were opened by Past Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah N. Duff, who presented the Reverend John F. O'Rafferty of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Lansing, Michigan. Father O'Rafferty offered the invocation.

In his opening remarks, Comrade Duff was highly laudatory of the courage of the Ladies Auxiliary for their heroic efforts to establish the Community Center, which today stands as a monument to their vision, determination and labors in behalf of a magnificent contribution to the facilities at the National Home.

Comrade Duff then introduced Mrs. Dora E. Raffensperger, Past National President, who spoke for the Community Center Committee, consisting of herself, and Past National Presidents Bessie Hanken and Winifred D. Toussaint, and National Secretary-Treasurer Grace H. Davis.

She expressed her appreciation of the honor extended to those on the Committee by Past National President Laurie Schertle, for her original appointment, and to National President Anna Mae Lochner for re-appointing the same committee to serve in her administration.

Dora Raffensperger then introduced Past National President Julia L. Pitcock, Chairman of Arrangements, under whose administration the first funds for the Community Center were raised.

While Past Commander-in-Chief Fred Stover started the ball rolling for the Community Center at the Kansas City Encampment, at that time being President of the Board of Trustees, it was mainly

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT LAURIE SCHERTLE PRESENTS FLAG TO ROBERT G. WOODSIDE, PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NATIONAL HOME.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG FOLLOWING PRESENTATION.

FLAG PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY CENTER BY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CLUB. LEFT TO RIGHT—DORA E. RAFFENSPERGER, BESSIE HANKEN, ANNA MAE LOCHNER, LAURIE SCHERTLE (holding flag), WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT, JULIA L. PITCOCK, GRACE H. DAVIS.

through the efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary that the National Home today is blessed with that magnificent contribution to the welfare of the children entrusted to its care.

With our Americanism spirit ever to the fore, Past National President Julia L. Pitcock introduced Past National President Laurie Schertle, who presented a lovely American flag to Robert G. Woodside, as President of the Board of Trustees of the National Home, in behalf of the Past National Presidents' Club, and for permanent display in the Community Center building.

Mrs. Schertle then thrilled all present with a stirring patriotic address, which, in essence, was a tribute to the womanhood of America. She stressed the fact that the flag itself was made by a woman, that women had been auxiliaries to their menfolk since the beginning of time, supporting and encouraging them, and even showing them the way to the attainment of their goals.

At the conclusion of her thrilling address, Mrs. Schertle asked for the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and then led in the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

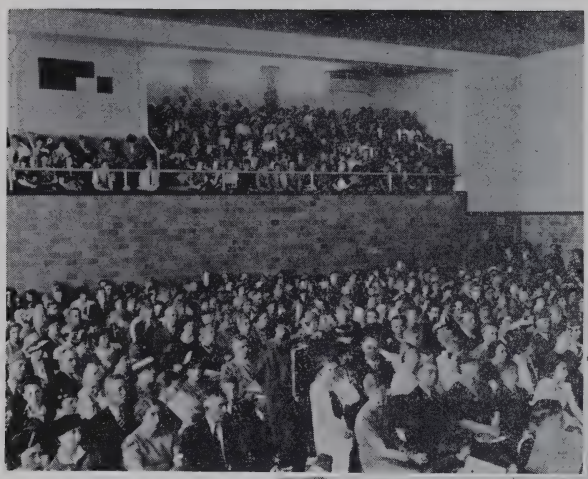
Mrs. Pitcock again assumed the chairmanship and introduced our charming National President Anna Mae Lochner, who presented Past Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah N. Duff, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, with a sterling silver key, suitably engraved, and symbolic of the fact that the transfer of the Community Center was being made from the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In making the presentation, Mrs. Lochner said:

"A symbol is defined by the Columbia Encyclopedia as a visible object representing the semblance of something which is not shown but realized by association with.

"For thousands of years the Chinese have used a symbolic alphabet. Their characters do not stand for letter sounds such as our letters do, but for ideas—ideas not only appropriate but rich with wisdom.

"We in the western world have put many of our ideals into



AUDITORIUM PACKED TO THE DOORS FOR CEREMONIES.

EXTERIOR SHOWING LOUD SPEAKERS FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED INSIDE.

DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS OF ACORN POST NO. 1669, ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN, WINNERS OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT, 1938.

symbols. To us White means Purity; the Lion—courage; the Dove —Peace; and the Wedding Ring is a symbol of endless felicity.

"Centuries ago, the Key, as a now universally known and used symbol came into being. Americans have adopted its use. It has become a tradition, and one of the best known emblems of explanation.

"This Silver Key which I have the honor of presenting to you—the Commander-in-Chief, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is symbolic of love and everlasting loyalty; expressive of such because silver is everlasting, and loyalty is the *KEY* word of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars during this, our Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

"Can you fancy why this key is also symbolic of Our Lord's words—"And a little child shall lead them." It was the welfare of little children that led the Ladies Auxiliary to conceive the idea of a Community Center, here at our National Home.

"It also typifies the Veterans of Foreign Wars precious symbols of our beloved organization.

'V'—Represents visions of the need of a building in which to conduct recreational activities, in our Children's Village.

'F'—The faith that necessary funds could be provided for such a building—thru voluntary contributions among the members.

'W'—For the earnest work and wisdom which it required to realize the fulfillment of our dream.

In the last analysis it is symbolic of the formal presentation through you, to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, by the Ladies Auxiliary.

"This building is christened Community Center. This Monument is dedicated for the common good, its future endowed for universal man and womanhood. A Beacon shall it ever be; a Pledge of Love and everlasting Loyalty. (Ladies must Rise).

"Our Commander-in-Chief we humbly pray,
Accept this Gift as Thine today."

Comrade Duff then turned the key over to President Woodside of the Board of Trustees of the National Home, representing the reposing of the Community Center by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the care of the Board of Trustees.

In accepting the Community Center in behalf of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Woodside dwelt on the Ladies' dream of a Community Center so long deferred, highly commended its realization and acknowledged that, had it not been for the Ladies Auxiliary, the Community Center might still be a figment of the imagination instead of a glorious reality.

He further stressed the part of our Organization in the success of the National Home, and pointed out that it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to have accomplished what has been achieved at Eaton Rapids without the loyal, constant and sacrificing support of the members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

In his remarks, President Woodside assured the Ladies that the beautiful flag presented at the dedication would be long revered by the National Home as a cherished possession, another glorious symbol of the Americanism that permeates the souls of us all.

In a beautiful tribute, President Woodside referred to the heroic deeds performed by those lying across the waters who gave their all for their country's cause, and in closing recited "In Flanders Fields."

The address of the day was delivered by His Excellency Luren D. Dickinson, Governor of the State of Michigan, speaking in the main to the children of the Home, who were grouped in the gallery. In doing so, he told the assemblage that, figuratively, he was going to speak over the heads of the adults because he wanted to be sure to impress on the children their good fortune in having such a splendid home, to which had now been added a wonderful Community Center.

In stressing the importance of environment and its effect on

GOVERNOR LUREN D. DICKINSON, OF MICHIGAN, DELIVERING THE ADDRESS OF THE DAY.

BELOW—
NATIONAL PRESIDENT ANNA MAE LOCHNER PRESENTS KEY TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF EUGENE VAN ANTWERP.

BELOW—
MICHIGAN STATE TREASURER SIGNS GUEST BOOK WITH PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ADA E. HARRISON ALL SMILES.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE AT DEDICATION—DORA E. RAFFENSPERGER, CHAIRMAN; GRACE H. DAVIS, BESSIE HANKEN, ANNA MAE LOCHNER, WINIFRED D. TOUSSAINT.
CENTER ABOVE — NATIONAL PRESIDENT ANNA MAE LOCHNER PRESENTS KEY TO COMMUNITY CENTER TO PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HEZEKIAH N. DUFF.

character, the governor told the story of Leon Czolgosz, the man that shot President McKinley.

Using the assassin as an example, he paid tribute to the influence of a good home, emphasizing that the American home is the bulwark of the nation, and that our children at Eaton Rapids had every advantage, aside from their natural parents, to help them in becoming valuable citizens of our great country.

We felt especially honored with the presence of the Governor of Michigan at ceremonies taking place on a Sunday. Thus, Governor Dickinson set aside his personal feelings, it being his belief that he should avoid attending other than religious ceremonies on that day of the week.

Past Commander-in-Chief Hezekiah N. Duff responded and characterized the governor's address as a splendid Sunday school lesson, particularly appropriate to the day. He then introduced the distinguished guests, among whom were: Mayor George E. M'Arthur of Eaton Rapids; State Auditor General Vernon Brown; Judge Charles H. Hayden of Ingham County; Past Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Woodside and Darold D. De Coe; General William Guthner of Denver, Colorado; Robert Kernodle of Kansas City, Missouri; Past National Presidents Effie King, Margaret J. Oldridge, Bessie Hanken, Ada E. Harrison, Dora E. Raffensperger, Julia Pitcock, Winifred D. Toussaint, Gladys Mooney and Laurie Schertle; Grace H. Davis, National Secretary-Treasurer; National Chief of Staff Marie DeWitt; National Chaplain Alice Donahue, and Mrs. Eugene Van Antwerp, wife of the Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief Eugene Van Antwerp was introduced by Comrade Duff, after which he was presented with a sterling silver key as a personal gift from the Ladies Auxiliary by Mrs. Lochner, our National President.

Comrade Van Antwerp's address was couched in the same laudatory terms as those which had preceded, embellished by the individual characteristics of his charming personality. He too ex-

pressed his deep appreciation of the untiring labors of the Ladies in seeing the Community Center project through to such a magnificent conclusion, adding the beautiful thought that to attempt to bestow more glory on the Ladies Auxiliary was like trying to affix another pair of wings to an angel.

The dedication of the Community Center at the National Home was truly an historic occasion. Besides the distinguished guests mentioned, there were representatives from virtually every state, including the following National Officers: Josephine Coleman, National Conductress; Hazel Miller, National Home Fund Chairman; Thelma Teach, National Color Bearer; and Ethel M. Griffith, National Americanism Chairman. Messages of congratulation were received from as far away as the Pacific Post in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands.

April 23d, a most impressive and memorable day in the history of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was drawn to a most affecting conclusion with the benediction of National Chaplain Alice Donahue.

AUXILIARY AIDS IN ESTABLISHING "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" AS NATIONAL ANTHEM

Every time we stand and sing "The Star Spangled Banner" we of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars can feel a special pride in the fact that our great organization played an important part in having Francis Scott Key's immortal words, set to such inspiring notes, officially recognized as the national anthem of our beloved United States of America.

Many patriotic songs arose out of the sentiments prevailing during the Civil War period. And, while some were even more widely played and sung than our so-called national songs, such as "Hail, Columbia," "America," and "The Star Spangled Banner," it remained for Key's thrilling creation to rise above all others in popular esteem. At the time of the Spanish-American War it was recognized by common consent as our national anthem, and by 1903 the army and navy had adopted it as official within those respective services.

In 1916, President Wilson, proclaimed "The Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem, still legislative enactment was necessary before it could officially be established as the national anthem, above the claims made for all other patriotic compositions.

There the subject stood until 1928, "The Star Spangled Banner," by common consent our national anthem, yet still lacking official sanction. And the situation remained as it was until, in that year, the late Captain Walter I. Joyce, National Patriotic Instructor of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Director of its National Americanization Committee at the time, commanded nation-wide attention when he sponsored a measure in Congress calling for the official adoption of Francis Scott Key's masterpiece as the national anthem.

Wholeheartedly and ably supported by the Ladies Auxiliary,

Comrade Joyce was triumphant where so many others had failed. But it was not easy sailing by any means.

Holding various objections, determined opposition, time and again, kept the committee from reporting the bill to the floor of the Congress. One objection, which many considered serious, was the range of the music, the claim being raised that some of the notes were too high for the untrained voice, making the anthem unsuitable for singing by mixed assemblies. However, this objection was met simply by transposing the music to a lower key. Still, it required an unremitting campaign of two years, supported by petitions signed by five million Americans to convince the Congress that official sanction should recognize the will of the people. And, Comrade Joyce needs no higher tribute to his intense Americanism than the undaunted spirit he displayed and the unflagging courage with which he carried the campaign to such a glorious victory.

The part of the Ladies Auxiliary in the campaign reached a climax when the bill came up for its final hearing before the Judiciary Committee. Comrade Joyce had arranged to have Mrs. Elsie J. Reilly, of Federal Auxiliary to Post No. 824, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Washington, D.C., sing the great song, accompanied by the famous United States Navy Band. In the audience were many hundreds of members of the Ladies Auxiliary, and the demonstration was a brilliant success. With the notes of "The Star Spangled Banner" still ringing in their ears, the Judiciary Committee was presented with the petitions containing the names of forty-two governors and two hundred and sixty-seven congressmen, among the total of five million previously mentioned, backed by the endorsement of organizations with an aggregate membership of fifteen million.

The final triumph came when, on March 3d, 1931, the last day of the congressional session, the bill for which Comrade Joyce and our Auxiliary had fought so hard, was passed unanimously by the senate, and but a few hours later was signed by the president.

Thus, in the face of former failures by many organizations

and individuals throughout the years, the unflagging zeal and the courage and tenacity of our late comrade, encouraged by the untiring efforts of the Ladies Auxiliary, were crowned with success, and that is how and why "The Star Spangled Banner," by legislative enactment, became the National Anthem of the United States of America.

As a result, Captain Walter I. Joyce, of revered memory, was the only member ever to be honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars with the title of Honorary Commander-in-Chief, on the occasion of the National Encampment at Milwaukee, in 1933.

AUXILIARY GOD-SPEEDS GOLD STAR MOTHERS PILGRIMAGE

One of the noblest gestures of our national government toward the mothers of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War was the pilgrimage to the graves of their sons in France. As guests of their country, 7,700 Gold Star Mothers made the solemn journey to the last resting places of their heroes, lying forever under the crosses, "row on row."

In 1929, the Ladies Auxiliary made plans to receive the Gold Star Mothers as they arrived in New York and to entertain them at the various hotels where they stayed before embarking for France.

National Senior Vice President Ada E. Harrison was appointed chairman of the greetings committee for the Gold Star Mothers of our Organization. She and her committee saw to it that each Mother, as she arrived in New York, was made to feel at home, and, as she set sail for France, presented her with a large poppy, tied with victory ribbon, a token from our National Auxiliary.

The reception went straight to their hearts, and, coupled with the State parties and gifts to the Mothers before leaving their homes, touched them deeply and helped to assuage the poignancy inseparable from a pilgrimage such as theirs.

Sister Harrison was also a member of Mayor Walker's Reception Committee that made the Mothers' stay in New York a never-to-be-forgotten experience. And, as she sailed away, each Mother carried an American Flag, presented to her by the Mayor's Committee.

The first contingent of Mothers sailed in May, 1930, and others followed in the years of 1931, 1932 and 1933.

Upon their return many of the Gold Star Mothers said they had placed the poppies on the graves of their sons; still others

brought them back as mementos of our Organization and their stay in New York.

Through the four years of the pilgrimage, among those to bid bon voyage, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was prominently represented on the pier at Hoboken, New Jersey, whence all the pilgrimage ships set forth on their errands of homage to hallowed fields afar, where "sleep the brave."

ANNUAL TRIBUTE AT NATIONAL SHRINES

Ever mindful of the debt of gratitude we owe those who have gone before, of high or humble station, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in the year of 1936, inaugurated the ceremony of placing floral tributes at the tombs, or other memorials, of leaders and martyrs representing various epochs in the history of our country.

"First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen," George Washington, first president of the United States as now constituted, must ever stand first among the immortals responsible for establishing or maintaining "the land of the free and the home of the brave." The initiative was his, though the "Americanism" of all was identical.

Facing disheartening situations which, of themselves, would have crushed the spirit of all but a handful of the greatest men that ever lived, Washington's dauntlessness, faith and perseverance became the cornerstone of the greatest nation earth has yet seen.

So, with a reverence the depth of which cannot be measured, on February 22d, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, tenderly lay at the tomb in Mount Vernon, their annual tribute to "The Father of His Country," the country which he gave to the privileged citizens of the United States of America, and which we must ever keep inviolate of alien influences seeking to tear down that which has been so magnificently wrought by the heart and hands of George Washington, and of all those who have since followed the trail he blazed.

Abraham Lincoln preserved what George Washington established. Faced with problems different, though perhaps as complex and heartbreaking, this humble, modest immortal rose to the greatest heights of humanitarian service from the lowliest of births. Yet, it was the sublime simplicity of his origin and early life, close

to the soil, and of which he was so much a part, that was the essence of his greatness.

Though Springfield, Illinois, was his adopted home, preserved in a Connecticut granite and Tennessee marble shrine near Hodgenville, Kentucky, (Lincoln's birthplace) is the very log cabin in which he saw the light of day, a symbol characteristic of our democracy, under which "all men are created equal," and the humblest have the rights and may rise to the stations of the highest.

In the name of true Americanism so exemplified in the career of the sixteenth President of the United States, every February 12th, our National Auxiliary reverently places a wreath of memory at the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, Springfield, Illinois.

Among the annual tributes at national shrines, perhaps the closest to our hearts, or at least, to our associations is the annually recurring ceremony, February 15th, at the mast of the Battleship Maine, preserved in Arlington Cemetery. That grim, yet inspiring, memorial to the 266 men of the fated ship's crew is a striking reminder of the spark that primed the Spanish-American War, out of which was destined to blossom forth the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to which we officially became the Auxiliary in September, 1914.

Thus do we keep ever green our remembrance of those who gave their lives that foreign despotism might be banished forever from the Western Hemisphere. We "Remember the Maine," and, at the same time, we remember the source and inspiration of our origin.

One of the most impressive concepts for a memorial ever thought out in the brain of man was the inspiration for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The sheer simplicity of the idea was nothing short of a stroke of genius. The very idea of one body, one sarcophagus, to symbolize the thousands of American soldiers that never came back from the World War, is sublime.

Hundreds of thousands marched away with swinging arms

and smiling faces. Thousands remained to sleep forever in foreign soil. But, in spirit, they are ever with us, and, in form, they lie within that tomb of simple grandeur amid the eternal beauties of Arlington, bearing this recognition of a grateful and unforgetting nation—"Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God."

On Armistice day, November 11th, our National Organization, ever mindful of our own husbands, fathers, sons and brothers, symbolized by the Unknown Soldier, give tangible evidence of our emotions as we contribute our wreath of remembrance, praying that they he represents may ever rest in peace.

Thus do we, annually, recognize the four foremost historic epochs in the history of our country—the Revolution, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the World War, each of which has had such vital influence on our course as the greatest of the democracies, and each of which has welded our common bond of Americanism closer with the passing years.

If we loyal citizens of the United States of America will heed the lessons in those wars, we need have no fear of alien isms that would destroy the democracy so dearly bought.

ANNUAL AWARDS TO WEST POINT AND ANNAPOLIS

Since we can make certain of our cherished Americanism and an "enduring America" only so long as we support and encourage those who are the first line guardians of our free and sacred institutions, it was most fitting that we institute in our Silver Jubilee Year an annual award to honor cadets at West Point and midshipmen at Annapolis.

Deep interest was displayed by the midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, in striving for their award, a fine pair of marine binoculars, suitably engraved.

The first award was made at a special dress parade the afternoon of May 31st, with a representative of the Ladies Auxiliary making the presentation.

We were particularly pleased with the conditions surrounding the prize for the midshipmen, in that they gave practically every student equal opportunity to win, and, perhaps they were best explained in the words of the superintendent of the Academy, when he wrote:

"There are a number of awards given students for excellence in various subjects or activities. These prizes are usually won by honor men or by men who have a special ability in that particular subject or activity. The great body of midshipmen have little possibility to win any of these prizes.

"It is therefore recommended that your prize be awarded to 'The midshipman making the greatest improvement in class standing for the course.' This would include the subjects of 'aptitude' and 'conduct' as well as academic subjects. As such improvement in the class standing throughout the course can only come through constant effort, the prize would be an incentive to a very large

number of midshipmen, and to a class of midshipmen not influenced by the other prizes."

That seemed to be so in keeping with the spirit of Americanism in the broadest sense—equal opportunity for all.

The Naval Academy officials thought so much of the Ladies Auxiliary annual award that they announced it to the midshipmen by means of this special printed announcement—

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland

27 April 1939

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 14—39.

SUBJECT: Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Prize.

1. The Superintendent is pleased to announce to the Regiment of Midshipmen the establishment of the following annual award:

LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PRIZE

A pair of binoculars is awarded each year by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to that member of the graduating class who shows the greatest improvement in his class standing for the course over that of his Fourth Class year.

WILSON BROWN
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Superintendent.

N. A. Dist. "B" + "G"
U.S.N.A.—4-27-39—2612

On Saturday, June 10th, 1939, a delegation representing the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars journeyed to West Point, New York, where amid stirring exercises, the chairman made the presentation of a valuable set of books on military history to the cadet of the graduating class with the highest stand-

ing in civil and military engineering and military history. Each book bears our seal and is suitably inscribed with the name of our organization, and the occasion for the gift.

The award had aroused a great deal of interest among the cadets and the competition for the new prize was exceptionally keen.

In setting up these annual awards, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars added new luster to their name and a new stone to the bulwark against anti-American isms.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Emblem of Auxiliary	5
Dedicatory Tribute	7
Greeting of President Roosevelt	7
Greeting of Secretary of War Woodring	8
Greeting of Secretary of the Navy Swanson	9
Song of Jubilation	10
Twenty-Five Years of Service	11
History of Early Organization—Margaret Armstrong	14
Our First Encampment (Illustration)	24 & 25
Permanent Peace for America—James Levergood	71
The Constitution of the United States and What It Means to the American People—Mary Jane Beneditz	84
In Memoriam	96
Veterans of Foreign Wars	100
Our "Children's Village"	117
Hospital Gift of Ladies Auxiliary	123
"Polar Bear" Dead Honored and Welcomed Home	127
A Tribute to Hawaii	131
Auxiliary Sponsors Dual Franco-American Celebration	134
We Honor Miss Liberty	138
What the Statue of Liberty Means to the American People—Edna Falk	140
Auxiliary Honored by Women's Patriotic Conference	147
"Keep America Out of War" Campaign	152
Howard Chandler Christy and We Reciprocate Honors	157
Silver Jubilee Dedication of Community Center	161
Auxiliary's Part in Establishing "The Star Spangled Banner" As National Anthem	174
Auxiliary God-Speeds Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage	177
Annual Tribute at National Shrines	179
Annual Awards to West Point and Annapolis	182